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MAZADA TOURS

January COL rises 0.9%

Workers to receive 2.4% increment

MICHAL YUDELMAN and Ilin

THE Consumer Price Index rose 0.9 percent in January, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. The increase was a relatively high percentage, especially compared with last year, when the monthly increase was just 0.2%. The January 1994 increase was 0.7%.

Housing costs, up 1.5%, and health fees, up 2.3%, contributed the most to the increase. However, the price of fruits and vegetables was down an average of 3.5%, as were clothing and footwear, down 4.2%. Transportation and communications were up, with the increase in the price of gasoline boosting transportation costs 2.1%.

The Cost of Living increment to be paid salaried workers in February's pay slip, due at the beginning of March, will be 2.4%, according to the agreement reached yesterday between the Histadrut and the employers.

The COL increment agreement, which will be valid for two years, is based on a new formula proposed by the Histadrut, ensuring workers compensation even when the inflation rate is relatively low.

According to the new formula to calculate the COL increment, the workers should receive a raise of almost 3% on the basis of the COL rise. However, since the workers already received 0.5% in August, this will be deducted from the increment, leaving it at 2.4%. Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz explained.

Peretz noted that the new COL agreement not only ensures the workers compensation at any inflation rate, but also enables them to renegotiate the increment in cases of especially high inflation rates.

The agreement was reached after days of intensive negotiations, in which the Histadrut demanded changing the COL increment system, and the employers insisted on the old system, by which no compensation at all would be paid workers in an annual inflation rate of up to 8%.

The Histadrut also demanded that in an annual inflation rate of 10% or more, the workers would be compensated for the full increase in the COL index.

Avi Barak, head of the employers' negotiation team, yesterday expressed satisfaction with the new COL increment agreement, noting that "we managed to reach an agreement while preserving fair and correct labor relations."



'Davar Rishon' journalist Efrain Davidi (right), chairman of the paper's journalists union, speaks to demonstrating staffers yesterday in Tel Aviv. (Assaf Shilo/Israel Sap)

Last-minute 'miracle' saves 'Davar Rishon'

DAVAR RISHON, which was to close today, was saved at the last moment yesterday by what many in the newspaper and the Histadrut called "a miracle."

In a dramatic decision, the Histadrut revoked its Sunday decision to close the paper and announced that it would resume its financial support, thus enabling continued publication.

The impetus was provided by the Singer-Barnea group, which undertook to get together some 30 investors for the long-term project of managing Davar Rishon.

Editor-in-chief Ron Ben-Yishai said the group "will invest not only money, but know-how and commercial ability. The offer comes from the altruistic motive to help the newspaper."

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz said the Histadrut would be a minor partner in the project. "We decided to give this historic newspaper a chance. It's important for us that the social voice, the mouthpiece of the work-

MICHAL YUDELMAN

ers, continues to be heard." The announcement caught Davar Rishon editors and journalists by surprise, in the midst of preparing what was to be the final edition. Most of them were incredulous, others cynical.

"We're afraid of getting our hopes up again," one journalist said. "This might all turn out to be too good to be true."

Peretz said that the Barnea-Singer company undertook to set up a group of investors who will put \$250,000 in Davar Rishon within a week, while the Histadrut matches the sum. In addition, the Histadrut will continue giving the paper \$1 million a year for the next two years.

Before the dramatic change, Davar Rishon's journalists had demonstrated outside the paper's headquarters to protest the closure. They were joined by journalists from other newspapers, who came to show solidari-

ty and support. Efrain Davidi, chairman of Davar Rishon's journalists' union, called on the Histadrut to "realize its mistake and revoke its decision to close down the newspaper."

Senior Davar Rishon sources said that contacts with several potential investors, including the Singer-Barnea group, had been under way over the past months, but the Histadrut's decision to cut off the paper's financial pipeline did not enable them to reach fruition.

"It is more likely that due to public pressure, the Histadrut was searching for a ladder to climb down from the limit and change its decision to close Davar Rishon," one source said.

"This way it has a good excuse to resume financial support to the newspaper at least until after election year," he said. "After all, the Histadrut is always demanding that owners lay aside considerations of profitability to preserve jobs. Why can't it do it with one of its own companies, like Davar Rishon?"

IATA head: Palestinian airline likely soon

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE director-general of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said yesterday that he expects a Palestinian airline to become operational by this summer.

Pierre Jeannot, who heads the organization made up of airlines from around the world, met on Wednesday with Palestinian Council President Yasser Arafat and with Fayez Zaidan, who is in charge of civil aviation development for the Palestinian Authority. Jeannot said that the Palestinian airline would begin on a limited scale, with shuttle flights between Gaza and the West Bank. Flights further afield will come later.

Initially, Jeannot said, the airline would operate under the umbrella of an Israeli permit, since all airlines must have a permit from a recognized authority. Any further development, he said, would have to be a result of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. "The Palestinians would have no problem with personnel, he said,

since they have trained people who have been employed in other countries. The PA currently has two planes, each capable of carrying up to 50 passengers, donated by the Dutch government. Apparently, other states will also contribute aircraft, he added.

Jeannot said that one of the problems of air transportation in the Middle East is that air space is fragmented between the states of the region. He added that he would like to see a more rational use, similar to that in Europe. He said he is aware of the problem facing Israel as a result of the refusal of Saudi Arabia to allow overflights, and he would "remind" the Saudis of this when he meets with them.

He also noted the severe congestion at Ben-Gurion Airport, and urged the government to deal with the situation quickly if it wants to reap the benefits of increased interest in Israel as a tourist destination as a result of the peace process.

Navy helps repair Egyptian fishing boat

SAILORS on a navy missile boat stopped an Egyptian fishing boat off the coast of Gaza yesterday, and helped the fishermen repair their faulty engine and return to port in Egypt.

The Dabur was on a routine morning patrol off Gaza when it noticed that an Egyptian fishing boat had entered Israeli waters. The sailors called on the fisherman to heave to, but the Egyptians ignored them. The Dabur pursued them, forced them to halt, then discovered that the fishing boat's engine had a breakdown which forced the boat into Israeli waters.

The fisherman said that a certain engine part had malfunctioned and they couldn't return home. The sailors lashed the two boats together and started searching for a part that would solve the Egyptians' problem. After about an hour, the part was located and the sailors helped the fishermen repair their engine.

After thanking the Israel Navy, the fishermen headed for home. (Ilin)

Husseini plan would evade blocking of PA rule in capital

BILL HUTMAN

FAJSAL Husseini, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, has proposed establishing a Palestinian Development Company of Jerusalem to get around Israeli opposition to the Palestinians setting up their own administration in eastern Jerusalem.

Husseini presented the idea last week at a closed forum of Palestinian political figures at the Hakawati Theater in Jerusalem.

Sources at the meeting said the proposal was for the company to serve as a Palestinian municipality. The council members, or "board of directors," would be chosen by stockholders, who in effect would be the entire Palestinian population, 18 and older, of Jerusalem.

All adult Palestinians in the city will be asked to pay one shekel for "stock," making them officially eligible to vote for the board, as in other public companies, the sources said.

Husseini told the forum that the proposal is the only way to unilaterally get around Israel's ban on the Palestinians establishing their own authority in Jerusalem, according to the sources.

He said that past proposals for establishing Palestinian shadow city councils had proven unworkable, because of Israeli opposition. Palestinian sources said Husseini, who did not run in last month's Palestinian elections, sees himself as the natural head of the proposed company.

In a telephone interview yesterday, Husseini confirmed he presented the proposal, and that he hopes it can be implemented soon. "We can provide all the services [with the company] - education, planning, all the needs of the people," he said.

"The Israelis have a Jerusalem Development Corporation, so there is no reason that we should not be able to have one," Hus-

seini said. He added that the company's board might not necessarily be elected by the general Palestinian public. "That is just one of the ways being considered. We still haven't decided who will choose the board, and exactly how large it will be," Husseini said.

Meanwhile, over a quarter of a million Moslems are expected to attend the final Friday prayer services of Ramadan at Al Aksa today, forcing police to close down roads around Jerusalem's Old City to all but public transportation in an effort to make way for the expected crowds.

Some 70,000 Moslem worshippers attended prayer services last night at Al Aksa, with the crowd expected to grow to nearly 300,000 today.

Jerusalem police are to be out in unprecedented force. Security sources said the major concern remains as it has been most of the week - that Hamas will attempt a revenge attack for the killing last month of terrorist bomber Yibye Ayyash, allegedly by the General Security Service.

Palestinians from the territories under the age of 30 are forbidden to enter the city today under the partial closure, which has been eased somewhat. A similar partial closure last Friday, however, found many Palestinian youths able to enter Jerusalem illegally and attend prayers at Al Aksa.

"The situation will be tense," Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit told reporters yesterday.

Police sources noted that the other large Friday prayers of Ramadan passed quietly, leaving hope that there would be no incidents today, but police are taking no chances; some 2,000 policemen are to be on duty in eastern Jerusalem. Amit is to oversee security in a mobile command unit, aided by a police helicopter.

Palestinians from the territories have complained that even the limited closure preventing younger Palestinians from Al

(Continued on Page 2)

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Yoel Bin-Nun: Mistake to back Netanyahu

HERB KEINON

THE Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza made a mistake in publicly endorsing Benjamin Netanyahu, and would make an even greater mistake if it launched a personal campaign against Shimon Peres, Rabbi Yoel Bin-Nun, the renegade member of the council's executive, said yesterday.

"I am against negative personal campaigns," Bin-Nun said. "I have seen two negative personal campaigns, one against Menachem Begin and one against Yitzhak Rabin. And I am not prepared for this to happen again."

Bin-Nun was responding to reports about a document that allegedly details plans for the settlement council to lead a smear attack against Peres. The council has denied that such a document exists, nor that attacking Peres personally is their strategy.

Bin-Nun, for his part, said he doesn't know if such a document exists. He said, however, that the council in the past decided to wage a personal campaign against Rabin. Uri Ariel, head of the council, denied this charge.

According to Bin-Nun, the settlement movement is shooting itself in the foot by publicly and actively supporting Netanyahu. "And what will happen if Peres wins? This is a very irresponsible move," he said.

Bin-Nun caused a furor five days after Rabin's assassination when he announced that he knew of rabbis who gave halachic backing for the killing. Police investi-

gated a number of rabbis, but nothing came of the accusations.

Ariel rejected Bin-Nun's criticism of the council's endorsement of Netanyahu, saying the council has legitimate criticism of the government's policies.

"What are we supposed to do, say amen to every move the government makes because of a fear that if we don't, they will get back at us later? We will do what we can to ensure the victory of the national camp, and if a Peres government intends to take out their vengeance on us, then that is a scandal," Ariel said.

Eyal Arad, a public relations adviser to the settlement council and farmer aid in Netanyahu whose name was linked to the document alleging the council's plan for a smear campaign, said the council is preparing a campaign under the headline, "I am sure of the national camp."

Arad said he never saw the smear campaign document, and that as a public relations man he sees "three or four people every day with ideas, some of them completely crazy. I nod my head politely, and then continue without any intention of using them further. It is possible that someone close to the council, or someone who wants to give them suggestions, wrote a document, or that it is the document of an employer in an advertising agency. But never, in the best of my knowledge, was a personal smear campaign ever discussed or approved."



An elderly Palestinian man berates an IDF soldier standing guard on a jeep at a building site on the Ramallah bypass road yesterday. Demonstrations by Palestinians against confiscation of land for the bypass roads were held throughout Judea and Samaria. (Reuters)

'Al-Ahram' attacks Barak

CAIRO (Reuters) - The Egyptian government newspaper *Al-Ahram* attacked Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak yesterday, saying remarks he made in the US cast doubt on Israel's sincerity in the peace process.

"When he speaks in this arrogant language and aggressive spirit and with this erroneous logic, he undermines all Israel's commitments to peace and deepens the doubts about its real intentions in the region," it said in a front-page report.

The newspaper said Barak told a Jewish gathering in the US that Israel is living "in a villa in the woods."

"This villa is characterized by wealth, it contains civilization and technology, but outside the windows other, different laws and principles apply, and there is on place and no rights there for

the weak," it said he added.

Barak upset Israel's Arab neighbors last month by referring to Arab leaders as "jellabas," the gown or cloak worn by some men in the Middle East. He later retracted the remark.

The *al-Ahram* commentary said of his latest reported gaffe:

"It shows a glaring contradiction between Israel's repeated claim that it wants to coexist with its neighbors and its desire to master and dominate others."

"Perhaps Barak wanted to win early the votes of the American Jews in an attempt to overthrow [Prime Minister Shimon] Peres and occupy the prime minister's seat in his place."

It said Israel should be the last to talk about human rights and law.

"Israel's violations of human rights are known to all," it added.

Meimad weighs turning into party

HERB KEINON

THE 49-member Meimad executive was meeting late last night to decide on whether to turn into a political party, or whether to remain an ideological movement.

Rabbi Michael Melehor, the chairman of the executive, said that if the movement becomes a political party, it then will have to decide whether to sign up with the registrar of parties and run in the upcoming elections.

Only then, he said, will Meimad decide if it is to run alone, or to join up with another party.

Melchior denied that Meimad and the Third Way have negotiated over running on a joint ticket, and said that this was never discussed if Meimad registers as a party.

Meimad's head, Minister Without Portfolio Yehuda Amital, was involved in the Third Way and attended a number of meetings of its executive early last year.

Likud primary to be moved up

SARAH HONIG

THE Likud plans to move up its primary to March 18 from the original March 26 date, sources said yesterday.

The March 26 primary date was initially scheduled when election day was slated for October 29. Now that elections will be moved up to May 28 or June 4, the Likud wants to get the primary battle over with to gear up for the main battle.

Another concern is that Labor has rescheduled its primaries to March 25. This was interpreted as a hostile act, designed to distract public and media attention from the Likud.

Meanwhile, the Labor leadership is expected to continue reviewing options for election dates over the weekend. A top Labor source said that June 4 remains the most plausible choice, in view of the religious parties' insistence on not having the election close to Shavuot.

Labor hopes to win opposition concessions for agreeing to June 4. It wants the opposition to drop its insistence that campaign advertising be screened on Channel 2, and its opposition to amending the law forbidding TV to show candidates during the month before elections.

'Aguda head to go'

HERB KEINON

AGUDAT Yisrael faction head Avraham Shapira will not be heading the party's Knesset list in the next elections, and "most likely" will be replaced by Bnei Brak contractor Moshe Haim Schoenfeld, a senior Agudat Yisrael source said yesterday.

The source said it is clear that the Gerer rebbe, Pinchas Menachem Alter, wants to see "fresh" faces on Aguda's list. Alter is co-head of the party's Council of Sages, which determines its Knesset candidates.

The council is scheduled to meet next week to discuss the issue. In addition to Schoenfeld, Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Meir Porush, son of long-time Aguda MK Menachem Porush, will also be included high up on the list, the source said.

Shapira, however, said he knows of no move to replace him. "It is all words," Shapira said. "No one has told me that I should leave my post. If the rebbe tells

me to leave, then there is no shame in it, and I will leave. But there is no announcement. Until now there has been no hint that I step down."

Shapira dismissed Schoenfeld's candidacy. "Every four years he appears as the one who will replace me, that he will be the one to run. If the rebbe decides he is the person, I will congratulate him."

Schoenfeld, 56, said that if the Gerer rebbe believes he is suited for the job, "I will take it on."

He denied actively campaigning for the position, but said, "I am a political being from my youth. I have gone through all the different frameworks in the party, starting with youth group counselor, to commander of the haredi Nahal, and including all the organizational frameworks." Schoenfeld was a major in the IDF and commander of the haredi Nahal, since disbanded, in the 1950s.

Winning cards and numbers

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 057989 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 200039 won a car.

Tickets numbered: 650788, 113745, 384036, 237438, 126304, 072922, 854013 and 276527 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 13030: 78433, 53337, 73972, 77151, 32202, 10770, 43563, 93892, 80121, 52967, 99659, 71985, 26693, 90513 55339, 04492, 52071 and 17729 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 434, 802, 079, 119, and 393 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 88, 70, 86, 21 and 47 won NIS 24. Tickets ending in 1 and 8 won NIS 8.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, nine of hearts, jack of diamonds and eight of clubs.

BIRTH

ACKERMAN - With much gratitude to Hashem, Surie and Tzvi Ackerman announce the birth of Shiria Penina on February 14, 24 Sivat. Sister to Elisheva, Aharon Yaakov, Mordechai, Michael and Liba Leah. Mazal tov to the grandparents and great-grandparents.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Police seeking accident witnesses

Tel Aviv police are seeking witnesses to the February 6 accident in which Bruria Karon, 83, was hit by car while crossing Allenby Street at the corner of Rehov Tchernichovsky. She died of her injuries on Wednesday afternoon.

Pipe bombs explode near Nablus.

Three pipe bombs exploded yesterday in the Mount Ebal area near Nablus, as an IDF convoy was traveling on the Nablus bypass road. There were no injuries or damage.

HUSSEINI

(Continued from Page 1)

Akka is a violation of their religious freedom, and demanded that all Muslims be allowed to attend prayer services at the holy site.

Police presence will remain beefed up in eastern Jerusalem through the Lil El-Khader holiday after the end of the Ramadan

fast next week, police sources said.

Dozens of Palestinian youths rained stones and bottles on police outside Damascus Gate last night. Several people, including a 10-year-old boy hit in the head with a rock, were lightly injured by accident during the confrontation, a Magen David Adom spokesman said.

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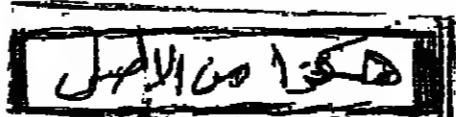
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Rachel's Tomb wall outrages Bethlehem

PALESTINIANS demonstrating near Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem yesterday to protest the building of a wall there almost came to blows with the army. Demonstrations were also held in five other locations to protest settlements. They were arranged by the "nationalist-Islamist anti-settlement committee."

A march of more than 200 schoolgirls, youths, and local notables threatened to get out of hand in Bethlehem, as the marchers waded abreast into a barrier of Palestinian policemen,

whose linked arms gave way under the pressure. The marchers then continued towards Israeli border policemen, who refused to let them advance. They carried banners protesting the building of a security fence at Rachel's Tomb, which has divided the main road leading toward Jerusalem, a step the IDF says is temporary until the wall is built and the remaining two lanes can be reopened. Palestinians do not believe the lanes will be reopened and consider it a reinforcement of the

JON IMMANUEL

closure. Youths then tried to pelt the border policemen with stones, many of which landed in the midst of the demonstrators. Palestinian policemen chased and arrested some stone-throwers. Salah Taamari, the former commander of PLO forces in south Lebanon, who emerged as the most popular candidate in Bethlehem for the elected 88-member council, led the schoolchildren in marching on the

police. "The wall is simply being erected to protect the many Israelis who come to Rachel's Tomb on certain days of the year," noted Maj. Udi Zrabiya, commander of the civil liaison unit. Although Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij had apparently reached a temporary understanding with the government coordinator in the territories, Maj.-Gen. Oren Shohor, other city notables, such as deputy mayor Hanna Nasser, were in the front line. "We don't see any reason

for this wall," he said. A colleague noted that "Rachel's Tomb may be in area C, but it is also inside the Bethlehem municipal borders." Col. Farouk Amin, the District Coordinating Office commander, noted that "during 28 years of occupation, the Israelis did not build this wall. Now they are doing it just to give everybody a bad feeling about peace." Abdel-Salem Abu Shukhaidem, a local Wakf Ministry official said it is all being built on Wakf land.



Mazal Fikdu, who graduated a course for dental assistants and hygienists at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dentistry this week, is congratulated by her sister Tami. The course, the third of its kind for new immigrants, was extended from a year to 18 months because of language difficulties and cultural differences. Of 23 women who started the course, 21 graduated. Eleven are Ethiopian immigrants; the others are veteran Israelis and Russian immigrants. (Text: Judy Siegel; Photo: Avi Hayoun)

Rafael workers end hunger strike; agreement reached in principle

DOZENS of Rafael workers who began a hunger strike on Sunday in protest against management's intention to fire them ended their fast yesterday evening. The decision was made after works committee representatives were informed by senior Histadrut officials that an agreement had been reached in principle to resolve the dispute.

DAVID RUDGE

management and the Histadrut. Under the accord, 400 government employees out of the 4,300-strong work force at the giant armaments development authority's plant south of Acre are to leave of their own accord over the next two years with preferential severance pay terms and pension rights. The remaining workers have also agreed to accept an 8 percent cut in their salaries, as well as forgoing other benefits. The funds saved in these steps are expected to save the concern another 5 percent on the annual payroll bill. In return, they will receive a

commitment that the plan to turn Rafael into a public company will be frozen for two years. "Without this commitment there can be no agreement," said Zuckman. "This is what we have fought for over the past two years. It is one of the most important agreements ever reached and we hope it is now going to be finalized."

Negotiations are continuing at Rafael over management's plans to trim the work force by an additional 600 employees who are all on contracts. The focus of attention in the future is expected to switch to this sector, if the agreement regarding the government employees is approved and signed.

JON IMMANUEL

GEORGE Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has added his name to a list of Palestinian National Council members who wish to return, but it is unclear whether he will be allowed to do so. Habash, one of four PNC members or observers deeply involved in terrorism, led a wave of civilian aircraft hijackings in the early 1970s. The PFLP 15-member politburo made its decision in Damascus 10 days ago that anyone able to return to Palestine should do so, and Habash, who had said he would not return while refugees were unable to do so, was overruled. His deputy, Abu Ali Mustafa, is also on a list of 25 names added to the 193 names already given to the IDF. The new list has been returned to the Palestinian Authority with a request for more details on some of those named. The politburo made its decision after criticism by West Bank and Gaza PFLP members, who warned that "it looks like the PFLP is not ready to take up its responsibility after the elections," spokesman Riyadh Malki said. Salim Za'atun met with PFLP officials in Amman last week and presented their list to the PA on Tuesday.

Jerusalem Municipality takes no steps against manager who insults Arab workers

BILL HUTMAN

THE Jerusalem Municipality has taken no action against a department head who made derogatory comments about Arab workers, despite the fact the comments were verified in a tape recording. "I don't need Arabs here. Let them all go to hell. I don't need them," acting sanitation department head Amram Sharvit said on the tape. Arabs make up a large percentage of workers in the department, and have complained in recent weeks about treatment by Sharvit. "If they want to complain, let them go to Orient House. — them," Sharvit said, according to quotes from the tape released by Meretz city councillor Osnat Yekutieli earlier this week by an Arab worker in the department. Yekutieli turned to Mayor Ehud Olmert, who appointed Sharvit to the post, and demand-

ed action be taken against the department head. Yekutieli also made public the earlier complaints. The city, however, has decided to take no action against Sharvit. Instead the municipality has informed the workers that if they have complaints they should be filed with the police, according to a statement by the municipal spokesman. The spokesman charged Yekutieli with "cynically taken advantage of the sensitive situation in the sanitation department in order to gain points in his party's primaries." Yekutieli, in a letter to the mayor, said, "This is not the way to run a city inhabited by two peoples. Racism is explosive material that has the potential of breaking through the walls of the sanitation department and setting fire to the entire city."

ment and the Histadrut. Under the accord, 400 government employees out of the 4,300-strong work force at the giant armaments development authority's plant south of Acre are to leave of their own accord over the next two years with preferential severance pay terms and pension rights. The remaining workers have also agreed to accept an 8 percent cut in their salaries, as well as forgoing other benefits. The funds saved in these steps are expected to save the concern another 5 percent on the annual payroll bill. In return, they will receive a

commitment that the plan to turn Rafael into a public company will be frozen for two years. "Without this commitment there can be no agreement," said Zuckman. "This is what we have fought for over the past two years. It is one of the most important agreements ever reached and we hope it is now going to be finalized."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

'US didn't seek Egyptian mediation in Iraq'
The US State Department yesterday issued a statement asserting that, on his recent trip to Cairo, US-Ambassador Robert Pelletreau "did not ask for any sort of Egyptian mediation in Baghdad." The State Department's announcement was issued in response to a report by Pinchas Inbari in *The Jerusalem Post* on February 14, which cited Arab sources as stating that Pelletreau asked for Egyptian mediation in Baghdad. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

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Inauspicious beginning

IF the manner in which the election campaign began this week indicates its direction, the country is in for four months of frustration and disappointment. While virtually all parties agree that the country is facing a decision of momentous importance, few seem determined to conduct a debate commensurate with the seriousness of the issues.

On television last night, Likud MK Dan Meridor blamed Labor for the campaign's unfortunate tone. The party in power, he said, has obviously decided to appeal to emotions: we will appeal to reason.

There is little doubt that the first part of his statement is accurate. Prime Minister Shimon Peres's decision to start his televised announcement on early elections on Sunday with a drawn-out, heavily sentimental description of the assassination presaged Labor's strategy. And Leah Rabin's statement on radio the following day, "We shall never forget who the murderer was and who was murdered, and we shall never forgive," reinforced the impression that the election date has been advanced mostly to exploit the public's reaction to the assassination. It was a not-so-veiled repetition of her charge that the Likud and its leader share the blame for the murder.

Only the election results will show if the public is as susceptible to this emotional assault as Labor believes it is. But it will be a shame if an historic opportunity to conduct a serious public debate on the day's great issues is missed.

By adhering to Meridor's pledge, the opposi-

tion may make rationality prevail. But the Likud, far behind in the polls, may also be tempted to respond to Labor's strategy by launching personal attacks on Peres. If it resists such temptations and trusts the intelligence and maturity of the electorate, it will do the country a great service.

The media will play a larger role than ever, and it must be hoped that they will shun the kind of sensationalism which caters to the baser tastes of its consumers and tempts politicians to appeal to the voters' lowest denominator.

It would be nice, too, if the reporting of events is separated from editorial advocacy and done with a modicum of fairness. Israel Television's Channel 1 is particularly offensive in its servility to the government's cause. Statistically, it has been shown to feature appearances of government officials four times more often than it does opposition leaders. It badgers and interrogates opposition representatives in a manner which can only be called unprofessional. And its coverage of Peres's activities recall the bad old days of Jordan Television, when the first few items of every news broadcast invariably described His Majesty the King's doings, regardless of how trivial they may have been.

It is difficult to imagine that ITV really believes that every visit of the prime minister to a town, army camp, or school is so newsworthy that it must appear at the head of the news, while similar visits by opposition leaders are given short shrift. ITV may be government owned, but it must not let itself become a government organ.

The hunt for justice

NO one doubts that hideous and unforgivable crimes have been committed in the war in former Yugoslavia. Nuremberg set the bottom line for standards of international behavior after World War II, and its lessons may have been ignored many times since, but that is no excuse for continuing to ignore them. The current buck-passing over who is responsible for enforcing the international mandate of decency on Bosnia's war criminals should cease.

There is no reason why the various layers at which peace must be imposed in Bosnia cannot be implemented concurrently, to ensure that the Dayton accords are known to be a comprehensive peace and not merely another wobbly cease-fire. Stopping the fighting and delineating the territory are obviously priorities without which nothing else can be done. But beyond this, the return of refugees, the restoration of democratic processes, the imposition of the rule of law, and the dispensing of justice are the layers in the bedrock of future peace and stability.

The Implementation Force (IFOR) effort in Bosnia, while eminently more effective than that of the United Nations, nonetheless remains lopsided, with undue emphasis on military operations. The civilian side of the effort, headed by Carl Bildt, has been strongly and rightly criticized for being slow to start, dithering in its decision-making, and weak in its insistence on enforcing the Dayton accords. The international force is not in Bosnia to renegotiate Dayton. It is there to implement it, as its name states.

The issue of war criminals is a case in point. It is disturbing that no one had been willing to coordinate procedures with the War Crimes

Tribunal in the Hague and lay down a policy for arresting suspects before the matter became yet another Serb-Moslem squabble. It is clear the combatants are never going to agree on the other side meting out justice, so soon after the conflict. The Moslem-led Bosnian government may have had very good reason to arrest and hold two Serb officers for war crimes - but it is not really their business to do so. Such action just invites the other side to make tit-for-tat arrests regardless of the evidence.

Given the post-facto situation, US envoy Richard Holbrooke had little choice but to authorize the transfer of the Serb prisoners to the Hague, where the Tribunal will draw up indictments - but this was putting the horse before the cart. It should long ago have been clear that it is the Hague which must prepare cases and issue arrest warrants for IFOR to execute. Such a procedure leaves little room for argument, especially since the tribunal clearly wants to charge Moslem and Croat war criminals as well as Serbian ones.

This procedure has now been agreed - yet NATO commanders are complaining they have no orders or guidelines on making arrests. The affair of the Serb officers has already stalled the Dayton implementation, threatened a renewal of hostilities, and dented the credibility of IFOR. NATO has been given no information or mandate allowing it to identify or arrest suspects. The answer is clear - the Hague must assure itself of the evidence against individual suspects, it must issue details, photographs, and arrest warrants to NATO for passing on to its officers, and the troops on the ground must, under the mandate of Dayton, detain and return fugitives to the Netherlands.



Option that never really was

IN HIS book Personal Witness, Abba Eban, who as foreign minister held talks with King Hussein after the Six Day War, wrote: "I have always believed that the term 'Jordanian option' is one of the most unhappy semantic devices in the history of the Middle Eastern conflict. It obscured the limitations of the Jordanian role under the competitive pressure of the Palestinian idea."

Shimon Peres very likely accepts Eban's opinion of the Jordanian option having become outdated after 1970. Which is why he went for the Palestinian option, as laid down in the Oslo agreement.

It was strange therefore to hear Peres say, when he opened the election campaign this week, that the peace treaty signed with Jordan has realized the Jordanian option advocated by Labor.

Peres knows this statement has nothing to do with reality.

The alternatives debated after the Six Day War weren't peace with Jordan or war with it. The whole establishment wanted peace with Hussein. Even Menachem Begin, who in the past had questioned the legitimacy of the kingdom of Jordan, on June 15, 1967 proposed a peace treaty with Hussein based on economic union of the two banks of the Jordan.

The debate was over choosing the nature of the settlement in Judea and Samaria - between a direct settlement with the Palest-

tinians, and a settlement with Jordan over the areas previously under its rule. Devotees of the Jordanian option assumed that Jordan, with its extensive territories, would be more willing to agree to a territorial compromise in Judea and Samaria; supporters of the alternative option claimed that an advantageous agreement with the Palestinians could be reached on the basis of Palestinian self-rule.

THE JORDANIAN option was meant to exclude the possibility of a Palestinian state. But Peres's image and PR advisers assumed that the voters' intelligence and memory could be insulted, that Peres could congratulate himself on the consistency of his views, and that he could say, "We held firm to the

Image comes up against fact in election sloganeering

connected in economy and defense to Israel.

The Labor Party decided on the Jordanian option, on territorial compromise with Hussein in Judea and Samaria.

The peace treaty with Jordan, passed in the Knesset by an unprecedented majority of 105-3, is a good treaty; but it isn't synonymous with the Jordanian option. Peres is intelligent enough to realize that the Palestinian alternative he chose in Oslo surprised Hussein, failing to live up to his expectations from Israel.

Peres is aware that his suggestion concerning a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation has nothing to do with the Jordanian option. It means Israeli acquiescence in the eventual establishment of a Palestinian state west of the River Jordan. A future link between

Jordanian option, and have achieved it." It isn't only the Jordanian option that has vanished. Autonomy is also a chimera, and peace with the Palestinians is still to come.

The election campaign will feature many sound bites about "autonomy," "peace," and "Oslo," but the fact is that autonomy has disappeared, like the Jordanian option before it.

The precise term for the Palestinian entity in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza is an "interim self-governing authority." The Palestinians vetoed the term "autonomy," choosing to emphasize that what is at issue is a temporary arrangement for three years, at the end of which they will call for the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The bottom line should be understood by all concerned: The Oslo and Taba accords are not surrender documents for Israel to abuse and ignore. They are binding international agreements based on UN resolutions which explicitly and implicitly call for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab land.

In its attempts to be reelected, the Israeli Labor/Meretz coalition government will try to lure the Israeli electorate to its side. Its recent actions - closing off the Palestinian territories, the expansion of Jewish settlements, its talk about excluding Jerusalem from the final-status talks, and its attempts to appear tough with the Palestinian Authority - are nothing but symptoms of the changing attitude wrought by the Israeli elections.

This is harming the peace process. It may harm Labor's prospects for re-election.

The writer heads the Palestine Institute of Management in Ramallah.

Ploys to make life difficult

THE peace process that the Palestinian people lent their signature to will lead to the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital. This state will be established on all Palestinian land occupied by Israel in the war of 1967. Palestinian planners are working on building the political and economic structure of this state with this inevitable fact in mind.

They accepted the transition period and the phased implementation of the accords with Israel as a practical step necessary to lessen the century-long antagonism, hostility, and conflict between Palestinians and Israelis.

It is in this spirit that the Israeli people and government are asked to view Palestinian efforts to establish their economic and political infrastructure.

An example: The airport in Rafah and the Gaza port are essential projects for the Palestinian state, and therefore necessary for building peace between our two peoples.

But continuing Israeli interference in this project and many others essential to the Palestinians is snarling relations between the sides at a time when the Palestinians are working relentlessly to build bridges between our people and Israel.

The Taba accord has been progressing smoothly - senior Israeli officials have testified to this fact - especially as there appears to be continuous coordination between the two sides at all levels on essential matters like security. The machinery for solving disputes arising from the implementation of the accords is supposed to be in place.

However, Israel has been committing gross violations against Palestinian land, property, and people. Land is being confiscated for the purpose of building bypass roads for settlers; settlements are being enlarged, Palestinian houses continue to be demolished, trees are uprooted, and fertile land is damaged. Palestinian Moslems and Christians from the West Bank

and Gaza are prohibited from reaching Arab East Jerusalem. They have been prevented from praying in its mosques and churches. Palestinian prisoners are not being freed - as a matter of fact more Palestinians are being arrested and jailed on a daily basis.

AS OF the morning of February 12, Israeli occupation forces enforced a complete closure on the cities of Ramallah, El-Bireh and the surrounding areas. People woke up to find that they couldn't go to work, that their children were unable to reach their schools.

People cannot see any reason for the closure; nor do they know how long it will last; they feel completely hopeless. This is a very dangerous situation.

The same old occupation mentality persists among the Israeli soldiers manning the checkpoints. Decisions concocted by the Israeli army to make life as difficult as possible for the Palestinians are being implemented once again. The confiscation of half of the main road connecting Jerusalem and Bethlehem to appease settlers testifies to this.

A wall has gone up on private Palestinian and Waqf land around Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem. If, as I suspect, this is the beginning of a settlement, it is absolutely against the agreements signed between the PLO and Israel.

One of the reasons the intifada erupted in 1987 was as a reaction to the games that were being played with ordinary people's lives. Today the same accumulation of frustration and humiliation is again being felt by the

where Assaneo worked from 1972 to 1988. Assaneo, 48, was charged with forgery, false exercise of a profession and causing serious injury after a woman told police she had suffered permanent brain damage in an operation he recommended.

Former medical colleagues described Assaneo as both "brilliant" and a "psychopath."

A 72-YEAR-OLD motorist was run over and killed after he stopped on a motorway to give first aid to a rabbit.

The man hit the rabbit on a highway north of Amsterdam. He pulled over and was walking back up the road to attend to the stricken animal when he was run over by a car coming from the opposite direction.

AN ARGENTINE with no medical degree worked as a neurologist in a top hospital for 16 years, chaired a specialist conference and co-wrote a book on medicine. Guillermo Assaneo was "a great seductor with the gift of the gab," said one doctor at the Rivadavia Hospital in Buenos Aires.

THE DEATH certificate and funeral papers were being prepared for a severely premature infant when something wonderful happened: He started breathing.

Chase Lear-Carter was fighting for life on a ventilator, four days after the tiny boy, at just three hours old, revived in his parents' arms after doctors had lost all hope.

"I think he's going to make it," said his father, Nicholas Carter, 21, of Dowagiac, Michigan. "He's a big fighter."

Chase was born weighing less than 0.9 kg and born 16 weeks premature. Hearing only a faint heartbeat and seeing that he wasn't breathing properly, the medical staff attempted to resuscitate him but the infant did not respond.

The family decided to hold him until he died.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'STATUS QUO ANTE' Sir, - All major staff studies carried out by the American military make it clear that without the Golan Heights and the West Jordan buffer land, Israel can, under the best of circumstances, sustain an effective defense only for a most limited period of time. In contrast to recently defeated countries - such as Iraq - a lost war would mean the disappearance of Israel and thus for all practical purposes the end of Judaism throughout the world.

Premier Peres's overtures toward the PLO completely disregard the PLO covenant's clear intent to wage a jihad. In his overtures toward Syria, Peres held out the possibility of complete withdrawal from the Golan before Assad even condescended to allow preliminary talks and acted in day-to-day negotiations as

'POLITICALLY CORRECT'

Sir, - I think that "the source close to the Red Cross and the Palestinians" who said (The Jerusalem Post, February 8) that the Swedish government should press the Palestinian Authority about its use of torture, just as it protests to Israel about the proposed GSS law, made a great mistake.

There is no reason to believe that the Swedish government opposes torture when it considers it to be "politically correct." It is only "politically incorrect" torture that it opposes, and one can assume that it considers everything that Arafat does, including torture and other abuses of human rights, to be "politically correct." Incidentally, many of us, both on the left and the right, have the same attitude.

ISRAEL SHAHAK Jerusalem.

OVERKILL

Sir, - Your editorial of February 5, "The power of stupidity," is a textbook example of editorial overkill. Because Bar-Ilan University's New York office inadvertently used pictures of Yigal Amir in their dinner journal - an unfortunate error and obviously the result of some innocent in that office not knowing what Amir looked like - you use the following terms about Bar-Ilan: "stupidity" (twice), "imbecility," "sloppiness," "bumbling incompetence," "inanity," "ineptitude," "moral lapse," "cover-up,"

NATIONAL SHAME

Sir, - I read on February 4 of the imminent closing of the Atara Cafe in Jerusalem. This is a national shame. The Atara is a historic landmark of Israel. There are so few places which are a part of the current history of Israel that have not been demolished in the name of progress. Tearing down Atara to put in a Pizza Hut is almost heresy.

ILENE KLANG San Diego, California.

whitewash." Come now. Is this not over-reaction on your part? Instead of using these perfectly fine adjectives on what was obviously a careless mistake (though admittedly it caused renewed heartache to us all), it would have been wiser to save them for more appropriate circumstances. For example, every one of these adjectives would apply perfectly to the so-called peace policies of this government. Why waste them on other matters? Jerusalem. ESTELLE FELDMAN

Handwritten signature: Jovics 1500

Wise for the next war

SADDAM'S war ended five years ago, but the military and diplomatic lessons are still being analyzed.

Three fundamental lessons stand out:

• Wars can break out, even (or particularly) when least expected.

Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 caught the US, Israel, Kuwait, and just about everyone else by surprise. Although Iraq's economic and political problems from the long war with Iran were well known, neither the CIA nor Israeli intelligence expected that Saddam would risk war with the US by invading Kuwait.

As the crisis developed and the US prepared for war, no one expected that Iraq would be able to launch its "primitive" ballistic missiles against Israel, or that the US would fail to keep its pledge to destroy the launchers on the first day of air attacks.

The war and the missile attacks were unexpected, demonstrating again that uncertainty is the dominant factor in the Middle East. Nevertheless, many analysts continue to publish their predictions for the future of war and peace with confidence.

In a recent column, an Israeli defense correspondent criticized the IDF for still planning for a combined Arab military attack based on the scenarios of 1948 and 1973 (and prepared for 1967). He declared that in the wake of the peace process, Arab forces would never go through an autonomous or independent Gaza or West Bank to attack Israel. He explained how he had arrived at this conclusion, which seemed to be based primarily on wishful thinking.

There is no physical or political obstacle preventing a repeat of the events of 1948, and it is possible that at some point, Palestinian leaders would welcome and assist an outside invasion. Radical Egyptian and Syrian governments, looking for a diversion from internal social and economic failures, could create the conditions.

The Iraqi case shows that if the military capabilities exist, crises

GERALD M. STEINBERG

can and do develop suddenly, and armies move, trampling on the opinions of the sagest of experts. Opposing forces that are caught unprepared, such as Kuwait, do not survive to fight another day.

• Even in an age of missiles, the outcomes of wars are still determined on the ground, by tanks and armored vehicles, and the territory they occupy at the end of the fighting.

Many Israeli politicians, including Shimon Peres, are fond of claiming that in the missile age territory has lost its importance. This allows them to argue that the Golan Heights is no longer an important security asset for Israel. (When Peres recently asserted that

The basis of Israel's security remains flexibility, mobility, deterrence

hotels are more important than bunkers in the Golan, the head of the research division of military intelligence, Gen. Ya'acov Amir, pointed out that hotels are less effective in stopping tanks.)

However, the Iraqi missile attacks on Israel and Saudi Arabia neither lengthened nor shortened the war. Its outcome was determined by the air strikes mounted by the US and its allies, and by the ground attacks that captured Iraqi territory and trapped Saddam's Republican Guard.

Without the armored attacks, the war might have gone on for many more weeks or months, without a clear ending. (And had the US continued its ground attacks for another few days, both Saddam and the Republican Guard would have been destroyed.)

Conventionally armed missiles are a form of terrorism, and like the more familiar forms, they can make life uncomfortable, but cannot occupy land or threaten the survival of states. The Gulf war showed that territory and ground

forces remain essential, even in the missile age.

• Deterrence and the threat of massive counterattack are still our most important sources of security and guarantees of national survival.

We now know that Saddam had chemical and biological warheads for his Scud missiles, but despite his threats "to incinerate half of Israel," he did not use these weapons. We also know that the Iraqis exercised restraint because they feared the massive Israeli response that was promised, that would have done more damage in a few hours than six weeks of bombing, and would have destroyed Baghdad. The missile attacks were a form of terrorism, but Israeli deterrence prevented far more damaging attacks.

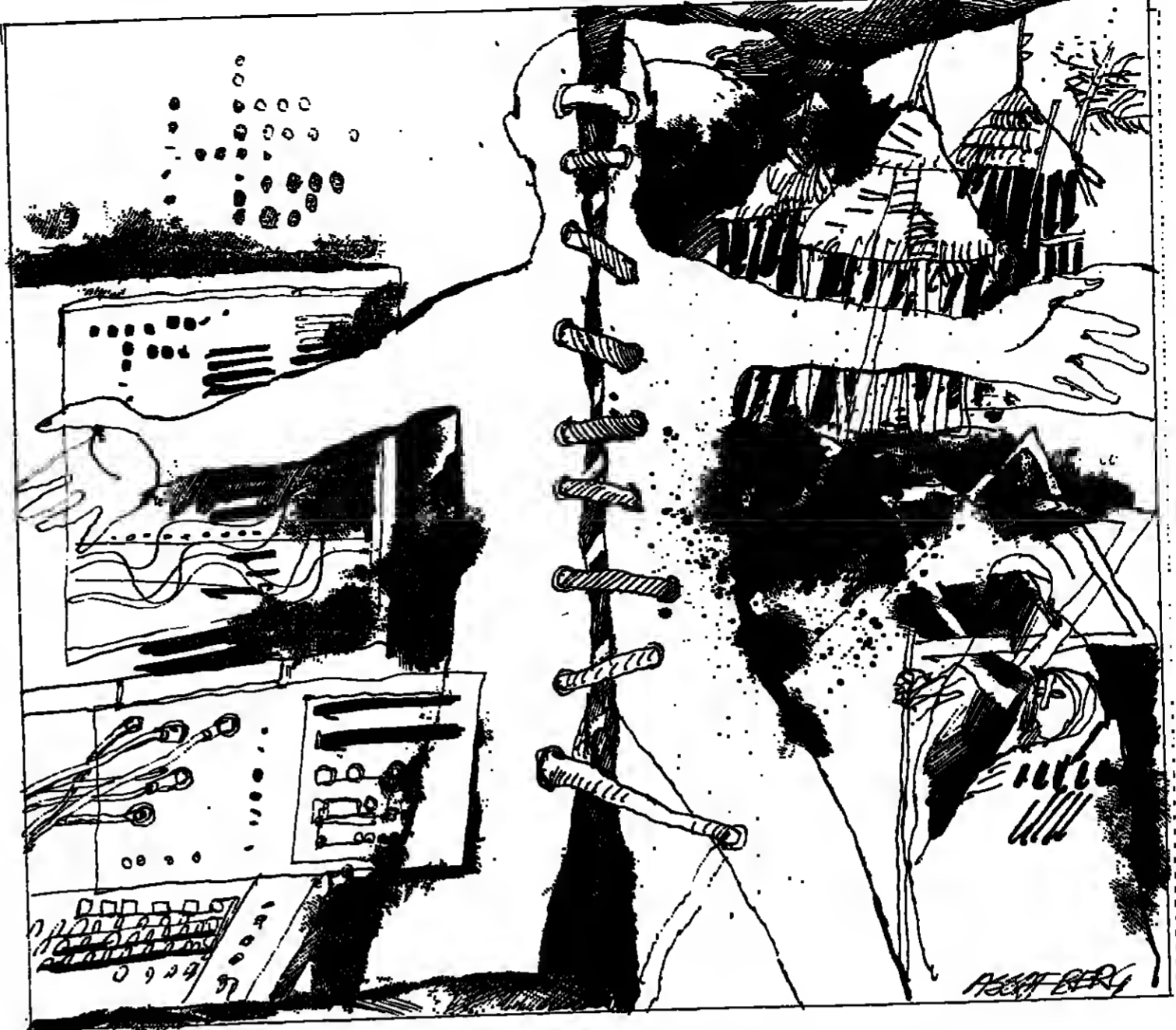
For the last few years, Egypt has led a concerted campaign to force Israel to relinquish its deterrent capability. Yitzhak Rabin understood the centrality of deterrence, and firmly rejected any changes in this policy. However, other Israeli political leaders seem inclined to make concessions in hopes of improving relations with Egypt and promoting the peace process.

The lessons of the Gulf war demonstrate that this would be a fatal mistake. As other states, including Iran, acquire nonconventional weapons and long-range missiles, the centrality of Israeli deterrence will increase.

Despite the missile attacks, this war did not threaten Israel's vital security interests. Above all, these events demonstrated that in an uncertain world, where dictators command large armies, and agreements and borders are ignored, flexibility, mobility, and deterrence provide the foundations of Israel's security.

Since the circumstances of the next war cannot be predicted, the IDF should base its training and planning on effective use of technology and the ability to adjust to any scenario, and not on the strategic placement of hotels.

The writer is a senior research associate at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies, Bar Ilan University.



A wrenching breach of faith

SOLOMON EZRA

I was 16 years old when I first stepped off an airplane onto Israeli soil.

I was fresh from Ethiopia, where I had been incarcerated under unspeakable conditions for the crime of helping fellow Jews escape from a despotic Communist regime to Israel. Certainly my own arrival on what I regarded as the sacred soil of my true homeland was the happiest day of my life, up to then.

There were even happier days ahead. I became the first Ethiopian accepted into the Israel Air Force, where I proudly served my country for years.

Professionally, I advanced beyond my wildest dreams. Growing up in a remote rural village in a mud hut, I didn't even see a telephone until I was 12. Some 20 years later, I am designing a successor to the current generation of computer chips.

For years I arranged the clandestine departure of thousands of Ethiopian Jews: when my own parents finally arrived in Israel my joy was overwhelming. In 1991, I had the privilege of working on Operation Solomon, the miraculous airlift that brought 15,000 members of my community to Israel in 36 hours. When I boarded the last flight out of Ethiopia, only hours before the airport fell to encircling forces, I must have been the happiest man on earth.

Today I am surely one of the saddest. It is hard to explain to non-Ethiopians why the revelation that Israeli officials have been dumping Ethiopian Jewish blood has caused us such great anguish, actually bringing us into violent confrontation with Israeli police. This type of activity is totally alien in our culture.

While we are actually not as unfaithfully patient, gentle and long-suffering as people suppose, we do not turn violently against those in whom we owe our education, our homes, and even our lives. But recently we did just that. Why?

There was a breach of faith by elements of the Israeli government. Our blood was accepted, then secretly discarded. Ethiopian

pride goes very deep, you might say it is in our blood, the blood that we have learned sits in garbage cans all over Israel. It is as if we too have been discarded as garbage by the people we thought were our brothers and sisters.

Fulfilled as we are to be at last living as Jews in a Jewish land, conscious as we are of the life-threatening risks that Israeli and American Jews took to make our dream of Zion a reality, grateful as we may be for the huge amount of money Israel has expended on our absorption, we still have serious problems that have received woefully inadequate attention.

These include education, the remnant of our community still walking in Ethiopia, housing, jobs, army assignments, and the miser-

able locations of so many absorption sites.

short, they conduct themselves in all respects as a religiously observant Jewish community.

The National Religious Party has appealed to Prime Minister Peres to bring them to Israel immediately since "they are without doubt part of Israel and live as Jews in all respects."

But the government, which pejoratively refers to them as "Falash Mura" does not recognize them as Jewish and accepts as eligible for immigration under the Law of Return only a small segment of this intensely Zionist community.

What possible legitimate reason can the secular, supposedly more liberal Labor and Meretz cabinet members have for this position?

I boarded that last flight out of Ethiopia, one of the happiest men on earth. Today I am one of the saddest

How do Shimon Peres, Haim Ramon, and Yair Tzaban sleep at night?

The government has failed to expedite the reunification of our community, some of whose members have been languishing in squalor around the Israeli Embassy in Addis Ababa for over six years. Many members of the community have relatives serving in the IDF!

As tens of thousands of Russian Christians are made citizens of Israel, this religiously-observant Jewish community is asked to satisfy Israeli government immigration restrictions that are not imposed on any other Jewish community in the world. The government's efforts to facilitate their emigration have been minimal.

The Interior Ministry and the Jewish Agency have devoted shamefully inadequate resources to processing the application of, even those few community members eligible for immigration under the government's absurdly restrictive criteria. The only assistance comes from two American Jewish organizations, the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The Israeli government has not provided any help to this suffering Jewish community.

I will not let myself believe that Israel doesn't want any more Ethiopian Jews. Israel is not a racist country, and our reception by the vast majority of Israelis has been almost embarrassingly warm.

However, the blood donation has badly shaken our faith; we need in have the government demonstrate its good faith by immediate positive action.

The writer, an electrical engineer, is on the board of directors of the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry.

What the market wants

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

THE public interest is the only interest in Israel today that is not a vested interest. Public-interest issues will almost certainly be the non-issues in the coming election campaign. Bioyamin Netanyahu's computer for every child is a welcome technological update of Shimon Peres's car for every worker; but that is likely to be the end of it. Both pseudo-visionaries recall the lament of American historian Brooks Adams that "Things are in the saddle and rule mankind."

The end of ideology has made the very notion of a public interest suspect. On both the left and the right, it recalls the bad old days of government intervention in the economy. Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir has told of her feeling of shame at the lack of interest in social policy in a Labor-led government, while Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tzur talks of its elitist orientation. Their criticism of Labor differs little from David Levy's strictures with regard to his erstwhile colleagues in the Likud.

The new norm is the market, not just as a mechanism for economic decision-making, but as a social ideal. It goes by different names in different areas. In education, it is called free choice. This is the rallying cry for the attack on integration.

In the media, it goes by the name of ratings, which have replaced standards, the out-of-fashion public interest criteria of achievement. Standards belong to the bad old days, when newspapers served their ideological masters, the political parties that owned and subsidized them. The senior personnel of both mass-circulation dailies, currently under indictment, are certainly innocent of trying to propagate any particular message. *Davar Rishon*, the only daily that boasts an emphasis on social issues, narrowly missed being shut down today for lack of public support.

Having no place else to go, public interest issues pop up occasionally in High Court decisions, where they often don't belong, because they often transcend the limits of the law.

This would certainly have been the case if the High Court had, indeed, approved the building of the proposed Trans-Israel Highway, as was inaccurately claimed. What business would a court of law have in getting involved in these complex policy issues? In

fact, the court merely refused to enjoin further work on the project because of the absence of an environmental impact statement.

THE MARKET norm, as applied to the highway issue, takes the form of collective hedonism. The argument is that everyone wants to own a car and drive it where he pleases. This is the bottom line for the political decision-makers. They want to avoid a traffic jam in the Knesset, where conflicting interests collide. They know they won't avoid one in Tel Aviv.

The end of ideology has made the very notion of a public interest suspect

Hence, there's no point in looking at the public transportation alternatives, the argument goes. That's not what the market wants. A suburban rail network might serve the public interest, but it can wait. The public wants to get where it is going in the family car.

Planning a superhighway may, indeed, be a matter for experts, but that is not the issue here. This is not a question of where to pour concrete, but where to put people - where they will live and how they will make a living.

National Master Plan No. 31 sets forth a number of objectives. They include development of four metropolitan centers, population dispersal, conservation of agricultural land and open areas. Does the highway project further or hinder achievement of these objectives?

Los Angeles was once described by a visiting Israeli as the city of a thousand Afulas. Prof. Daniel Shimshoni, a social policy expert, asks if the highway won't turn the entire country into a Middle Eastern Los Angeles, but without the open hinterland of the American West.

Worst of all is the nightmare visioo of a nationwide traffic jam, as the collective hedonism of the private car comes to its ultimate climax. New roads, here as elsewhere, mean more traffic and more tie-ups. No one seriously believes that the new road will

ease travel into or out of the nation's major metropolis, today's number one transportation problem.

Decisions on road-building were more rational in earlier days. Oldtimers in Yavniel, the Lower Galilee Rothschild settlement founded in 1901, tell the story of the decision to pave the road from Yavniel to Tiberias. Baron de Rothschild was coming to Tiberias, where he would receive the representatives of the community. What should they request?

Evening after evening, the argument raged: What project could best benefit Yavniel? The night before the meeting with the baron, the argument continued until the break of dawn, to no avail. In the end, the decision was to let the representatives who would meet with the baron decide.

The ride in Tiberias by horse and wagon took hours. The discussion continued the whole time. Tossed to and fro on the dirt track, after the preceding sleepless night, the delegation finally arrived. When they met with the baron they had made their decision: They asked for a paved road from Yavniel to Tiberias.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

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Scott Report on arms to Iraq clears UK ministers

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain said yesterday a three-year inquiry into arms sales to Iraq before the Gulf War had cleared ministers of conspiracy and had revealed no official cover-up.

Trade Secretary Ian Lang said the inquiry report showed ministers had not misled parliament.

It also concluded they had not been prepared to let innocent men go to jail to hide a covert change in official guidelines covering arms sales to Baghdad in the mid-1980s.

"There was no conspiracy, there was no cover-up," Lang told an angry session of parliament.

Major set up the inquiry in November 1992 under judge Sir Richard Scott after the collapse of a court case against three executives of an engineering firm, Matrix Churchill, accused of illegally selling arms to Saddam Hussein before the Gulf War.

Before the trial, ministers signed so-called public immunity certificates, or "gagging orders", saying evidence requested by the accused had to be suppressed in the national interest.

But the trial judge ordered the release of the documents and a former minister told the trial that the government had tacitly supported such arms sales, causing the collapse of the case.

Aides said Major had complete confidence in Chief Secretary to the Treasury William Waldegrave and Attorney General Sir Nicholas Lyell, the two most at risk from Scott's long-awaited report and they remain in government.

Lang said the report completely absolved and vindicated Waldegrave and Lyell.

Scott said guidelines banning lethal weapons sales to Iraq after the Iran-Iraq war ended in 1988 had been eased. But Lang said Scott's report concluded Waldegrave had no "duplicious intention" by not informing parliament.

Lyell ordered ministers before the Matrix Churchill trial to sign "gagging orders". Lang said Scott believed Lyell's advice had been correct at the time and he had acted with complete integrity.

Lang attacked the Labor opposition for what he called "reckless and malicious" charges. Labor had called the Scott inquiry a "smoking howitzer" pointing at the heart of the Conservative government.

But opposition members of parliament immediately launched a ferocious attack on the government for distorting the report and called on Prime Minister John Major to sack ministers.

"This report weighs the standard of integrity in our government... and finds them wanting in the balance," said Labor foreign affairs spokesman Robin Cook.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin gestures during a speech yesterday at Yekaterinburg, where he announced his decision to run for a second term. (Reuters)

Yeltsin, Zyuganov prepare for election clash

YEKATERINBURG (Reuters) - President Boris Yeltsin announced yesterday he would run for a second term in elections next June and said he was doing so to stave off a threat of civil war in Russia.

"My duty as the politician who launched reforms is to consolidate all healthy forces and prevent shocks that could lead to a civil war," the Kremlin leader said in a speech launching his re-election campaign in Yekaterinburg, his Urals home town.

Almost simultaneously, Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov was nominated by his party at a Moscow conference to be its candidate for the June 16 poll.

A further term of office by Yeltsin "would mean the destruction of our country", Zyuganov, a 51-year-old former college teacher, told reporters after accepting the nomination. He sneered at Yeltsin as a "weak rival".

Although there are other strong candidates, including flamboyant ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, many commentators believe the June election will come down to a straight showdown between Yeltsin and Zyuganov.

Yeltsin was elected president of the vast Russian Federation in June 1991 and played a big role in ending Communist rule.

But his popularity has waned since then as reform policies have left millions in poverty and a bungled military campaign against rebels in Chechnya continues to cost Russian soldiers' lives.

Opinion polls show him trailing Zyuganov, who led the reborn Communist Party to a big success in December's parliamentary election. Communists now occupy more than one third of seats in the State Duma, the lower house.

Yeltsin, speaking boarsely after campaigning on the streets of Yekaterinburg, told supporters that June 16 would not just decide who would be president.

"What we will have to decide is our future life and the fate of Russia," he said in an hour-long speech, defending his record of the past five years.

He said it would be irresponsible

not to continue his reforms.

"I have to bring to a successful end the matter to which I have fully devoted myself. I am sure that I can bring the country through turmoil, worries and uncertainty," he said.

Yeltsin's decision to run appeared to ignore two heart attacks last year, ascribed by his doctors to work and stress.

Apart from his croaky voice, he showed no sign of ill-health. He frequently diverted from his text to ram home his message in a speech touching on some of the achievements of his presidency, and often smiled and joked with the audience.

He made clear that solving the 14-month-old conflict in Chechnya was uppermost in his mind. He repeated that various peace options were being studied but he ruled out as unacceptable both an immediate troop withdrawal and "scorched earth" tactics.

Before his speech, Yeltsin took a populist line in meetings with people on the streets of the city where he was once Communist Party chief.

Rome summit crucial for Bosnia peace

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Washington called the leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia to a crisis summit in a bid to stop the Bosnian peace process unraveling but the hastily arranged meeting suffered a delay almost as quickly as it was announced.

The Rome talks were put back a day to tomorrow and Sunday less than 24 hours after their formal announcement.

The meeting is to be chaired by the European Union, Russia and the United States and hosted by current EU president Italy.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said it was "agreed as a means to underscore the

commitment of all parties to full compliance" with the Washington-mediated peace accords reached at Dayton, Ohio, last November.

The conference has been called at a time when the Dayton deal, which ended Europe's worst conflict since World War Two, has begun to fray badly over war crimes, prisoners and other issues.

The Italian foreign ministry gave no immediate reason when it announced yesterday that the meeting would be delayed. A spokesman said that a start today had been a target but never definite.

The United States hammered out the peace agreement between presidents Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia, Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia during three weeks of intense "proximity talks" at an air force base in Dayton, Ohio.

This month, in what chief US negotiator Richard Holbrooke called the sternest test so far for the pact, tensions have run high in the southern Bosnia town of Mostar, divided between Bosnian Muslims and Croats, and between Bosnian Serbs and the NATO peace force following the extradition of two Bosnian Serb army officers to the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

London police explode suspected bomb

LONDON (Reuters) - Police exploded a suspected bomb in the heart of London's theatreland yesterday after receiving several threats less than a week after two people were killed in an IRA attack in the capital.

The suspected bomb, which police destroyed in a controlled explosion, was found in a telephone box, a Reuters photographer at the scene said.

Just hours before the Irish Republican Army had renewed an announcement that it had ended a 17-month-old ceasefire in its guerrilla campaign to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Traffic ground to a halt as police sealed off the prime tourist area in London's West End. People described scenes of chaos as they were left stranded in theatres, restaurants and cafes.

"It's complete mayhem here. We have been told by the police to stay inside the theatre," the stage-doorkeeper at a theatre said.

"A traffic warden told us they had found a bomb and it was for real," an eyewitness said, adding the entire area was closed off.

Police said they received several coded bomb warnings by telephone shortly after midnight. They had not evacuated buildings but had warned people to stay away from windows.

"Explosives officers made safe a device found in the Shaftesbury Avenue area. It has been submitted for forensic examination and searches of the area continue," a spokeswoman said.

She refused to confirm media reports that the device contained one pound (0.4 kilogram) of Semtex explosive. "It was a small device," she said.

Police stepped up security in London after an IRA truck-bomb killed two people in the Docklands financial district. The bomb exploded last Friday shortly after the IRA issued a statement saying it was ending the ceasefire.

More rocks block way to bus in crushed tunnel

TOKYO (AP) - Rescuers could see part of the front of a bus smashed by a massive tunnel cave-in five days ago, but teetering rocks above it were keeping them away. From the other end, they faced an estimated two more days of digging to reach 20 trapped people.

The new obstacles yesterday deflated hopes that the victims could be reached quickly after an explosion the previous day finally broke up the massive boulder that had crushed the tunnel last Saturday. The boulder, the size of a 20-story building, had withstood three previous explosions.

In a flurry of snow, power shovels worked through last night, clawing away at the mountainside outside a remote fishing village on the northern island of Hokkaido. Trucks carried away piles of rocks

Makoto Niyama, an official with the rescue operation, told reporters that several large rocks threatening to topple over were hampering efforts to reach the victims.

Digging from the other end of the tunnel would take longer, likely through tomorrow, he said.

Anxious relatives keeping vigil at the tunnel, about 890 kilometers north of Tokyo, fought back tears when they were told they would just have to wait some more.

The national newspaper *Mainichi* reported the finding of one body, but police denied it. Rescuers had reported that a fiberoptic inserted through the rubble Sunday showed a human arm, but there was no indication of that person's condition and no new discovery yesterday, police said.

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By nature, the price as well as the yield can change on many fixed-income investments. Therefore, each one must be carefully examined on a case-by-case basis.

Do you need answers about investing? Mail or fax your questions, along with your name, address and phone number, to **SUCCESSFUL INVESTING by CommStock Trading**, POB 7777, Jerusalem, Fax: 02-244876. If your question is used in this column (without your name, of course), you will receive a gift from CommStock!

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With deep sorrow we announce the death of our mother and grandmother
BELLA ADLER
Basel/New York

Shiva at 11 Rehov Hama'apilim, entrance 10, Jerusalem, until Thursday morning. Shaharit at 6:30 a.m., mincha at 5:15 p.m.

Mark and Lea Adler
Sammy and Beruriah Adler
David and Ricki Adler
and families

On Thursday, February 22, 1996, the 39th anniversary of the death of our dear father and grandfather, the journalist
ERNST ZVI LASZLO ז"ל
we will visit his grave at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem.
Taxis will leave from Rehov Narkiss at 2:30 p.m.

The family

The dedication of the tombstone for
BELLA KELMAN - FUCHS ז"ל

will take place on Friday, February 23, 1996 (3 Adar 5756) at 11 a.m. at Har Hamenuhot (Har Tamir), Givat Shaul, Jerusalem.

The Family

The unveiling of the tombstone in loving memory of
DORON SADOWSKY

will be held on Monday, February 19, 1996 at 14.30, at the Ramat Hasharon Cemetery (Morasha junction)

Jill, Alec and Tammy Sadowsky
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With deep sorrow, we announce the death of our beloved husband, father and grandfather
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a kind and loving man

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The Gutfreund, Segev and Lehrer Families

The Embassy of El Salvador regrets the death of
H.E. ENRIQUE GUTTFREUND
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He will be laid to rest in San Salvador.

The unveiling of the memorial stone for
BEN ZUSSMAN ז"ל
will take place on Monday, erev Rosh Hodesh Adar, 5756 (February, 19, 1996) at 3:00 p.m. in Tiberias.

Transportation will be available from Jerusalem.
For details, call 02-663855, 02-619582, 02-794748.

The unveiling of the tombstone in memory of
Dr. BERT GOLDSTEIN ז"ל
will take place on Monday, February 19, 1996 (29 Shvat, 5756) at 1:00 p.m. at the Sanhedria cemetery.

Up to 60 killed in Kabul blast

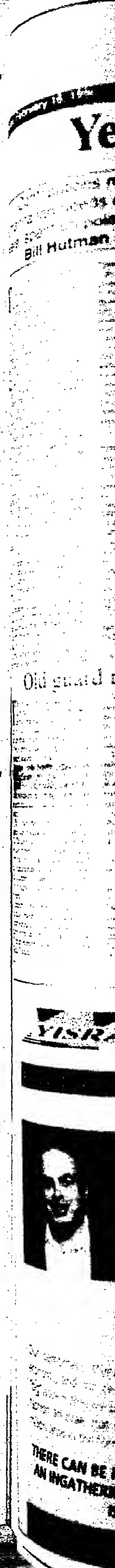
KABUL (Reuters) - Up to 60 people were killed and many more injured by an ammunition dump blast in the presidential palace in the Afghan capital Kabul yesterday, the government said.

He said the afternoon blast at the palace, housing the defense ministry, was triggered by a fire in a faulty appliance that spread to an ammunition dump.

Official Kabul Radio, monitored in Islamabad, blamed carelessness for the explosion.

Soldiers at the scene said the blast could be a deliberate attempt to blow up the palace. But a government spokesman earlier ruled out a rebel attack as the cause of the explosion.

The opposition Taleban Islamic militia, seeking to topple President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government, has besieged Kabul since last October and has often fired rockets and artillery at government-held areas.



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NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, February 16, 1996

Yesha Council misused US donations

Contributions meant for humanitarian needs on settlements were spent on political activities, Bill Hutman reports

THE Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza (Yesha) has diverted funds raised for humanitarian purposes from American Jews to use instead in its political activity, in violation of US tax laws, according to sources in the organization.

Former and present council officials interviewed during a three-month investigation by *The Jerusalem Post* said this practice of diverting donations began four years ago when the council first started raising large sums abroad.

In all, hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax-deductible contributions ended up paying for political activities ranging from demonstrations to lobbying, according to the sources. This practice continues, the sources said, who also made serious allegations of waste.

Recently, several major US donors realized their contributions were not going to the humanitarian projects which the Yesha Council had promised and angrily cut their donations to the organization, the sources added.

"I have no doubt that much of the money raised in the US ends up going to demonstrations," said Marc Zell, an attorney who headed the council's fundraising campaign from 1990 to 1993.

Zell recalled an incident in 1993 in which council director-general Uri Ariel suggested that the easiest way to divert money raised in the US would be by giving it to certain yeshivot "which would ensure that the money would return to the Yesha

Council's coffers."

By giving the money first to the yeshivot, the council would be able to bypass US laws on the use of tax-deductible donations, Ariel allegedly told Zell. The money would then be available for the political activity in which the Yesha Council is more interested, Ariel reportedly said.

Ariel denied Zell's account. "What Zell says is untrue," Ariel said, adding that "he never really worked for the Yesha Council." But Yechiel Leiter, head of the council's foreign desk, confirmed that Zell had worked for the council, and that he had succeeded Zell in 1993 as the one responsible for raising funds in the US.

THE NEW York City-based One Israel Fund is officially a separate entity from the Yesha Council in order to comply with US tax regulations. But for most purposes they are the same organization. Leiter is also chairman of One Israel, and Ariel is head of its allocations committee.

One Israel boasts a list of over 8,000 regular donors. A handful of contributors each give the fund hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

Ariel dismissed the allegations that US donations were going to political activity, and said it was unfair to base such charges on anonymous sources. "It simply is not true," Ariel said.

Leiter said, "There are people out there with an ax to grind, and the Yesha Council is a good target."

"If someone wants to support political activity they give directly to the



Settlement leaders' meeting two years ago. (From left) Uri Elitzur, Yisrael Harel, Aharon Dornb, Uri Ariel and Ron Nachman. (Photo: Kibbutz)

Yesha Council," and in such case the donation is not a tax-deductible, Leiter said.

US law strictly forbids tax-deductible donations like those to One Israel from being used for political purposes. Jay Rotz, assistant director of the exempt organizations division of the IRS, said,

Tax-deductible donations may go only to "charitable and educational activity," Rotz said. He declined, however, to comment on reports that have reached council officials in recent months that the IRS is investigating the organization.

The council, through its foreign desk, which is responsible for coordi-

nating fund-raising, has told donors in the US that their tax-deductible contributions are going only to humanitarian projects, in accordance with US law. This is not, however, the case, the sources said.

"The foreign desk works closely with communities and individual philanthropists around the world to

ensure that the Yesha Council's Jewish communities are not deprived of the supplementary humanitarian funding they so desperately need," a report issued to major donors states.

The report is for April 1993 through April 1994, but was issued just last year.

A careful look shows that at least in

one case, the contributions did not go where promised. The first item in the report, under the title "Humanitarian Aid Allocations", earmarked \$535,000 for ambulances. The most expensive model, a mobile intensive-care unit, is listed as having gone to Kiryat Arba. A visit to the community, however, shows no such unit there. Community officials also confirmed that they received no new MICU unit from the council.

Leiter at first insisted the new unit was in Kiryat Arba. He later said there might have been a mix-up and the new unit been put in another community, although he could not identify which.

FORMER AND present Yesha Council officials said the organization's books are a mess. "No one keeps track of how much money is raised, where the money goes, and how it is used," says one former official, who asked to remain anonymous.

"I'm not sure it will ever be possible to trace the money raised in the US, because the books are mixed up so badly," the official said. "There was simply no accountability. We would raise money in the US, but never see the money in Israel."

"Checks were being diverted from the humanitarian purposes for which they were intended to all sorts of administrative and political activity," another former official said.

Most former and present council members refused to speak on the record about the group's finances fearing they would hurt the council during the run-up to the Knesset election, despite their outrage over how the finances were being handled.

"Zell was one of the major exceptions. His reason for going public is that he now heads a rival fund-raising group, the Israel Community (Continued on Page 14)"

Old guard resists push for reform

THE Yesha Council has not held elections for over a decade despite frequent calls for elections and a formal decision three years ago that a ballot be held.

Council critics, such as grass-roots settlement leaders Moshe Feiglin of Zvi Artztzia and Naftali Matar of Women in Green, are quick to point out that the council, founded in 1979, is often mistaken as being similar to the democratically elected regional councils.

This is not the case. The Yesha Council was founded by a core of Gush Erez activists to push for the development of settlements and lobby the government. The council has not held elections since 1983, and this, according to the critics, is the root of many of the organization's problems.

Criticism of the Yesha Council traditionally centers on the council no longer representing the Jewish community in the territories. Said Feiglin, "I never expected a lot out of the Yesha Council."

Matar called for the council to "be more open. They have been in the field for many years, and now must be open to the new generation" of activists like herself and Feiglin, she said.

But the old-guard council leaders have not only lost touch with the people, they are supposed to serve, according to the critics. A core of executive members and a handful of appointed officials not only make the council's political decisions, but they also make the financial ones, all in the name of the 140,000 Jewish residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

The leaders who wield power at the council include "elected" executive members Binyamina Regional Council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein, and Kiryat Arba Local Council chairman Zvi Katzover. There are also "permanent" executive members former MK Elyakim Ha'etzni, former *Nekuda* editor Yisrael Harel, former MK and Kiryat Arba resident Rabbi Eliezer Waldman, executive director of the council's Anama settlement

wing Ze'ev Hever, and Ofra Rabbi Yoel Bin-Num.

They are joined by the three hired professionals: spokesman Aharon Dornb, Yechiel Leiter, head of the council's foreign desk, and director-general Uri Ariel.

This core of permanent executive members and hired professionals controls the purse-strings at the Yesha Council. Besides "controlling" the council's purse-strings, the core group also holds those of two lesser-known nonprofit organizations that collect donations for the settlement movement: the Fund for the Development of the Zionist Idea, and the United Israel Fund. The same crew controls all foreign donations to the Yesha Council.

Jordan Valley Regional Council head David Levy said for the first two years after taking office in 1990 he was active in the council. "I quickly learned that [the council] was a group of four or five figures who were making all the decisions themselves. (Continued on Page 14-)

The council's unkept books

THE Yesha Council faces legal action by the registrar of nonprofit organizations because of its failure to file financial reports since 1992.

The registrar, Benzion Greenberger, said, "We have several options. We can erase the association's name from the registry, or simply dissolve it." This would get the council in trouble with Israeli tax authorities because of the tax breaks it has enjoyed as a nonprofit group, Greenberger said.

The Yesha Council has been registered as a nonprofit organization since 1990. By law, it is supposed to file financial reports with the registrar annually. Its latest report was for 1992, filed with the registrar only last year.

Council sources attributed the delays to the fact that the organization's finances are a mess. Last year, the council began to piece together its books, "but there is still a long way to go," the sources say.

They also said that registrar's regulations

require that financial reports be presented to an organization's general assembly before they are filed. The council hasn't had a general assembly since 1993, and instead this been run by an all-powerful executive.

Director-general Uri Ariel said he knew nothing about the council's failure to file financial reports with the registrar, and that to the best of his knowledge this had been done. He promised but was unable to provide proof that the reports were filed with the registrar. B.H.

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Shimon Peres and Benjamin Netanyahu look to entice haredim to their respective camps. (Aliza Auerbach, Jerry Steinberg, Elad Shalev)

Haredi voters do as their rabbis say

For the haredi voter, the question of which ballot to cast for the prime minister could have less to do with issues such as territorial concessions and the future of the Golan and more to do with the mystical teachings of the Zohar about the ascendancy of right over left.

That is the view of Arye Frenkel, a public relations adviser who is himself a member of the haredi community as well as an expert on haredi politics. Frenkel also says he believes that Benjamin Netanyahu's admission to having had an extramarital affair helped the Likud leader rather than harmed him.

In any case, Frenkel explains, the question is less whom the haredi voter wants than whom the rabbis, the great Torah sages, will back. In theory, at least, the haredi voters do as their rabbis say.

This outlook is summed up very succinctly by the Agudat Yisrael daily, *Hamodia*, in a report on the unification of the Likud and Tsomet last week. There was no reaction from the haredi parties, the paper

said, since the rabbis had not yet made their views known.

"The haredi parties did not react to the unification since the haredi public will act as the great sages tell them and no political act, or any advice by political advisors, will help the candidates," the paper said.

Prof. Menachem Friedman, the Bar-Ilan University sociologist, who is regarded as one of the leading experts on the haredi community, says he feels that it is incumbent on the leading rabbis to declare support for a candidate; their position of leadership demands it, but he does not believe that they will be able to agree on a choice.

The haredi rabbinical leadership is more divided than ever, he says, and even the Aguda Council of Sages, which has managed to remain intact for longer than the councils of the other parties, is now in disarray.

In addition, Frenkel points out, the direct election of the prime minister, when voters will have to choose between secular candidates to head the state, is problematic. In theory,

As rabbis struggle over which candidate to endorse in the elections, some suggest voters just consult the Zohar, Halm Shapiro writes

the haredi public stays away from "Zionist" politics. No one from either Aguda or Degel HaTorah has ever agreed to serve as a minister, even though they have in effect run some ministries.

In the past, the rabbis could tell the voters that it was their sacred duty to vote for Aguda or Degel, that the voters could take time off from the study of Torah to cast their votes for the religious parties. The easiest thing the rabbis could do from a religious point of view, Frenkel says, is to tell their followers to vote for the Knesset and cast a blank ballot for prime minister.

The problem with that, however, is that the nation is almost equally divided and the haredi voters could easily be the deciding factor. In fact, Frenkel adds, a call to abstain would

be a vote for Peres, since the haredi public tends to support Netanyahu.

On the face of it, this seems unlikely because of the incident in June 1993 when Netanyahu announced on television that he was being blackmailed with a videocassette of his affair. Adultery is a serious offense, prohibited in the Ten Commandments. However, Frenkel says, it would be far more difficult for the rabbis to support a religious Jew to be prime minister than an adulterer.

This, Frenkel explains, is because of the view of the inherent illegitimacy of the Zionist movement.

"It is actually better if a moral person is not the head of the Zionist establishment. The [video] tape doesn't hurt Bibi," Frenkel says.

ON THE other hand, Frenkel says, Peres has great support among the haredi political leadership and some rabbis, who see a direct line of support for the deferment of yeshiva students and the army exemption of religious girls running from Ben-Onion to Dayan and finally to Peres. In addition, Frenkel says, when Peres was finance minister he was particularly generous to haredi institutions.

Finally, the alliance between the Likud and the "antireligious" Tsomet makes it just that much harder for Netanyahu to woo the haredim, Frenkel says.

Friedman, however, sees the turning of the Labor government with the brush of Meretz as far more crucial. The presence of Meretz in the coalition makes the government

seem antireligious, Friedman says, and the haredim believe, with some justification, that a Likud government would be more sympathetic.

"The Likud wouldn't send someone like [MK] Dedi Zucker to be chairman of the [Knesset] Law Committee," Friedman says in a commentary on the Likud-Tsomet alliance which appeared last week in *Yated Ne'eman*, the Degel daily, where every time the writer, Alet Yitzhaki, mentioned Tsomet, he also mentioned Meretz. Indeed, Tsomet was only criticized as the right-wing twin of Meretz and the writer came to the conclusion that Eitan would have to drop his antireligious platform.

"It will be a gain for the religious that Meretz will be the only party with antireligious propaganda in the next elections," the writer concluded.

All this, however, is based on the assumption that the rabbis make their decisions on the basis of religious or even political considerations. In fact, both Frenkel and Friedman note, public opinion, both inside and outside

the haredi world, does have considerable force. If the haredi public wants one candidate, then the rabbis won't go for the other one, Frenkel says.

Moreover, both agree that the rabbis will not proclaim their support for a candidate who appears destined to lose the election.

"The rabbis won't back a loser. If the polls are for Peres, they won't support Bibi," Frenkel says.

Friedman says he believes that in their heart of hearts, the rabbis support Netanyahu, but that they will not support him publicly as long as Peres is leading in the polls. The rabbis have a history of remaining in the market, he says.

"They would prefer to decide without the press, or Peres, knowing about their decision," Friedman says.

However, Frenkel says, if there is no clear rabbinical directive, the haredi vote will go to Netanyahu, not because the voters prefer his platform, but because of the rabbinical, mystical view that the right man wins, just as the male must be over the female.

Now you see them all the time...now you don't

If Shimon Peres and Hafez Assad were to reach an agreement before the elections, the Israeli public might not be able to watch the historic handshake and signing ceremony on its own television stations.

A clause in a law being challenged by the ruling coalition bans the appearance of MKs and Knesset candidates on national television for the 30 days before the elections.

The coalition is trying to lift the restriction in an amendment scheduled to come up for first reading in the plenum on Monday. Opposition MKs are pushing to retain it, at least until the year 2000.

MK Haggai Merom, who initiated the amendment this time, says: "It's anachronistic. When Egyptian president Anwar Sadat met prime minister Menachem Begin on the eve of the 1981 elections, although television viewers could see Sadat, they were only shown pictures of Begin's shoes because of the ban."

That was not the only occasion footwear footage was shown. During the funeral of MK Micha Reisser, killed in a car crash on the eve of the 1988 elections, the candidates' faces were not shown, even when they were delivering eulogies.

In 1992, then-prime minister Yitzhak Shamir was edited out of coverage of Mikhail Gorbachev's

Just when election fever reaches its peak, politicians disappear from the TV screen due to a controversial law, Liat Collins reports

visit here. And one of the strangest off-cited incidents springing from the law was the ban on broadcasting a football match in 1988 until Hapoel Tel Aviv player Moshe Sinai removed himself from the bottom of the Labor Party list.

"The situation is absurd, particularly when Israeli viewers are exposed to the news from other

foreign sources and in an age of direct elections for the prime minister," Merom says. "The opposition fears politicization and says without the ban, the government will exploit the broadcast outlets. But I think journalists can be trusted, and [I] give them credit that they will prevent any gross violation."

"Such a law is not suitable in the

age of multi-channels. There can be no doubt that viewers will simply get the news through CNN and NBC instead. In the age of news, things can't be kept from the public."

MK Eliezer Zandberg (Tsomet) prepared a bill to amend the law in 1993, but after passing preliminary reading, it has lain buried in the Knesset's Law Committee for more than two years. Zandberg says he still favors lifting the ban, but, mindful of the serious objections of his opposition partners, particularly those on the joint Likud-Tsomet list, he is cautious.

"I'm meeting with Tsomet MKs Monday morning before the vote and I want to hear the opinions of both sides before deciding what to do," he says.

Since the elections were brought forward, the [broadcast time] situation has worsened considerably. It is now extremely difficult for opposition MKs to get air time, even if subjects they are closely connected with.

"For example, although I have been warning about and following the affair of banks overcharging for 10 years, I was unable to get time to speak on television. I heard my name quoted, but I was not allowed to say anything."

"The current situation is terrible. We [the opposition] are not even given the chance to respond to accusations leveled against us on the air."

"I'm in favor of changing the law now, as long as the change would come into effect for the elections in the year 2000 and not immediately. We can't change the law for these elections. We're not suckers and we won't commit political suicide."

MK Limor Livnat, in charge of the Likud's electoral campaign, is also lobbying to keep the prohibition, at least until after the upcoming elections.

"The coalition and opposition are offered completely unequal air time," she says. "The weekly review by [Ma'ariv's] Meir Schnitzer shows that the television appearances by coalition members compared to opposition MKs is completely biased."

"With the exception perhaps of Bibi [Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu] and Rafal [Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan] when they signed the joint list agreement last week, the exposure is out of all proportion to the strength and size of the opposition in the Knesset. Canceling such a bill would be harmful and could only help the government without benefiting the opposition."

more succinct.

"The law is a farce," he says.

He notes that not only are the cable stations and radio stations free of the ban, but that the major print press has no limits on pre-election coverage, either.

Poraz is fighting a separate battle concerning election propaganda. The head of the Knesset subcommittee on the Second Channel and Radio Authority, he favors maintaining a ban on Channel 2 on showing party political broadcasts. He says such broadcasts will send viewers to foreign cable stations and incur losses for the Channel 2 franchise holders. He was outvoted by his committee members, who supported the party broadcasts on both channels.

It is not only the MKs and candidates who cannot agree on the electoral propaganda issue. Media folk can be found to support either side.

Israel Television producer Aharon Goldfinger, responsible for *Popolitika*, said on a recent Channel 1 program: "The media is supervised and monitored enough to decide what kind of doses and exposure each [politician] gets."

Yedioth Aharonot journalist Amos Carmel, on the other hand, told Israel Radio that he despises the basic premise that the media will monitor and censor themselves. He also noted recent lack of equality in air time and even objected to the classic example of the Begin-Sadat meeting, frequently given by the ban's opponents.

"The Begin-Sadat meeting itself was not free of a political taint," he charged. Similarly, should Peres and Assad actually meet on the eve of the elections, the historic event would not be free of electoral overtones.

"Less damage is caused by viewers watching CNN than the damage that could result from lifting the current limits," Carmel said.

And Mokedet leader Rehavam Ze'evi has his own reasons for supporting the restrictions.

"It's a just law. It gives equal exposure to all candidates. Any law promoting equality between different people and bodies is a positive thing. In any case, I'm very discriminated against by the media and I want to put those who receive extra coverage into the same situation that I'm in."

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The Nautilus laser: Aiming into the future

Between Arrow and Nautilus, US-Israeli antimissile research is moving forward, Steve Rodan reports

ONE by one, Prime Minister Shimon Peres listed this week what he said were the accomplishments of the Labor government. Then, speaking to the coalition's Knesset caucus, he referred to the military.

"The IDF will remain a strong and modern army," Peres said. "I warn those who fire Katyushas that soon we will have weapons against Katyushas and against missiles."

Israel is entering an intensive stage of development of antimissile defense systems that will encompass a variety of means of shooting down enemy rockets. Some of the programs are in their infancy; some are arriving at the stage where production is being planned.

Defense Ministry director-general David Ivry says Israel's current efforts to build a shield against missiles was one of the chief lessons of the Gulf war. The Arab states, particularly Syria, watched Iraq rain Scud B missiles on Israel without any difficulty.

"It gave a lot of countries in the Middle East the feeling that this is the type of solution they can use to compensate for their lack of air power," Ivry says.

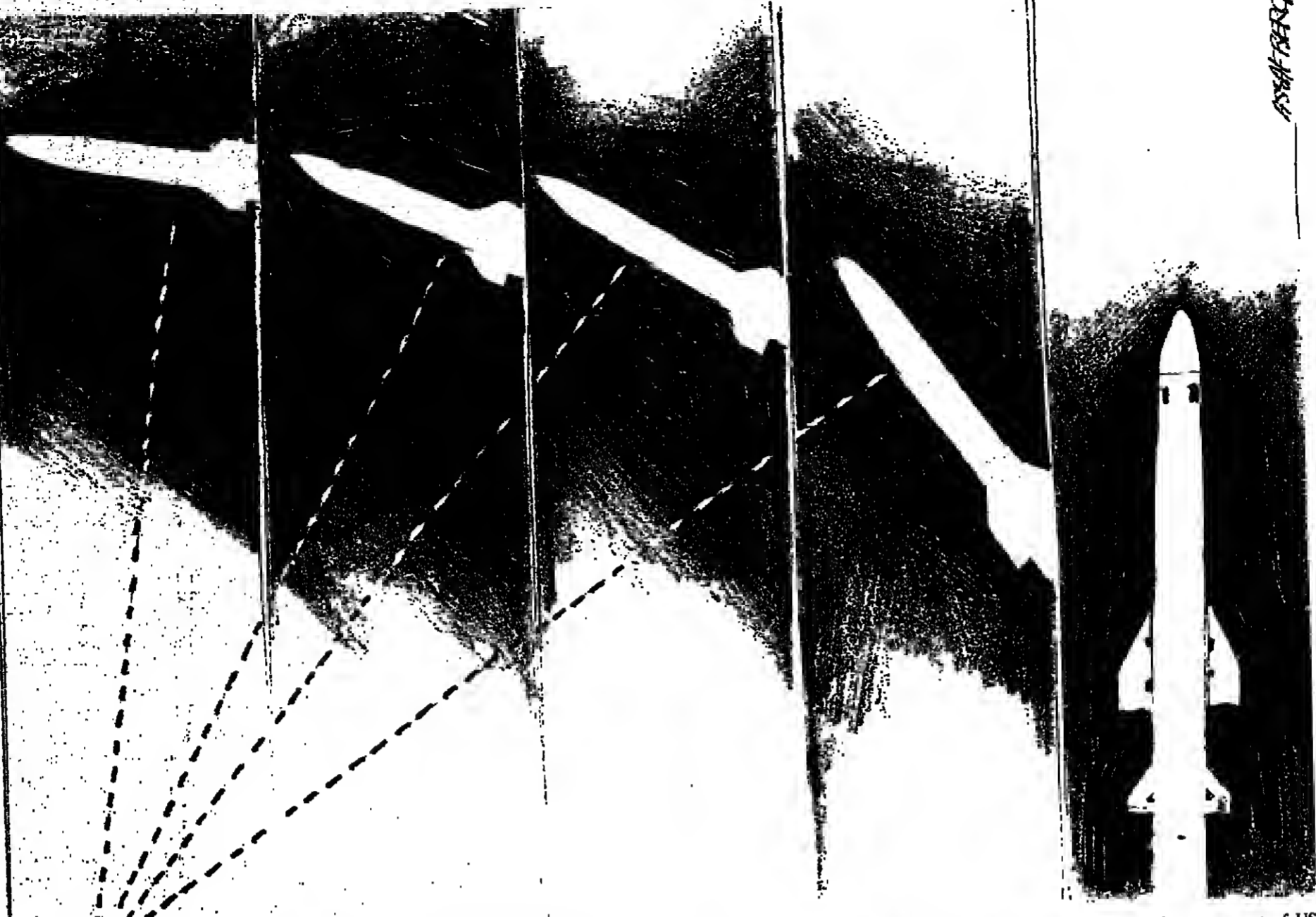
Israel's known antimissile defense programs have one thing in common: they are being developed with US funds and technical help and therefore come under Washington's control. The main effort is the Arrow program, begun in 1986 with the development of an experimental missile designed to intercept and destroy an incoming enemy missile. Last year, the Arrow II, meant to be the operational missile, was launched in what was called a successful test.

The Arrow II, smaller and lighter than its predecessor, will be tested again, defense sources say. As with its first test, the forthcoming launch will be kept simple. It will not attempt to intercept an incoming missile.

Instead, Ivry says, Arrow II will be tested for what he calls its feasibility and reliability. In other words, whether all of its systems, except for its interception capabilities, work.

Arrow II differs from the first missile in that Israel is putting up most of the money. The five-year program calls for Israel to fund 60 percent of the \$500 million project.

Ivry says part of the funding is to give Arrow the ability to integrate into other antimissile defense systems. The US, for example, is developing the THAAD (Theater High Altitude



Area Defense) missile which, unlike the Arrow, is meant to strike the warhead of the incoming missile. The Arrow's goal is to move in close and shower shrapnel to destroy the enemy missile's warhead.

The US is also helping fund an Israeli project to develop the rest of the antimissile system. This includes the radars and fire control needed to spot an incoming missile and target it for interception.

Ivry says two radars are being developed for the Arrow, one of which will be used in the next test. If the forthcoming test is successful, he says, then the following demonstration will seek to intercept an incoming missile.

Defense sources say they are hoping that by 1998 Israel will deploy its first Arrow system, which will be comprised of the missile batteries and launchers, the early-warning radar to detect enemy launches, and a fire control center to track the flight of the enemy missile.

Ivry, however, is more vague. "There is an expectation that within two years we'll have capability," he says without elaborating. "I can say that a year from now we'll have more capability than we have today. And in two years, we'll have even more."

The final cost of Arrow still remains in dispute. A Defense Ministry estimate prices the package of development and deployment at \$1.5 billion. Critics in the US and Israel say a system that aims to protect Israel's population centers from missile attack will cost at least three times that.

But defense officials agree that Arrow will not be the only system

in operation. Israel plans to establish a multi-layered system that aims to destroy enemy missiles in their initial flight period.

The concept is called Boost Phase Intercept and the US and Israel are quietly determining the feasibility of using Unmanned

The Arrow's goal is to move in close and shower shrapnel to destroy the enemy missile's warhead

Aerial Vehicles to scout enemy territory where missile launchers are suspected of operating. A satellite or airborne radar would spot a launch and direct the UAV to fire its missile and destroy the enemy's rocket.

The US Congress has allocated up to \$15 million for research on BPI and Israeli officials say it will take another year to determine whether the concept should enter the development stage.

BOTH THE Arrow and BPI could be affected by yet another program being developed by Israel and the US. This is the Nautilus, which, with a \$5 million budget in 1996, is the smallest of the antimissile defense programs. Israel contributes \$900,000 to the program.

Nautilus, a survivor of the Strategic Defense Initiative of the mid-'80s, aims to evaluate lasers as a tactical air defense system

against rockets, mortars, and unmanned air reconnaissance vehicles. In a test last Friday, the Nautilus laser, termed MIRACL, directed its beam at an Israeli-supplied Katyusha rocket, exploding it in flight.

For US and Israeli officials, the laser's success proved the feasibility of being able to destroy a short-range rocket at a far cheaper cost than other anti-missile projects, whereby a missile is launched to intercept and destroy an enemy missile. They said they will now test the laser against artillery shells, which are slower and smaller than rockets.

US Army officials, responsible for the Pentagon's end of the program, said the Nautilus technology could be used against ballistic missiles as well. Already, several US defense contractors are developing an airborne laser that, from above the atmosphere, could destroy a ballistic missile in the initial launch period.

Gerald Steinberg, senior researcher at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies and an author of a book on antimissile defense, says Nautilus could end up refuting criticism that an antimissile defense system is too costly.

"With a laser, you can make many shots and you can aim extremely accurately," Steinberg says. "With a laser, you can aim within a few centimeters. And, if you're talking about a range of a few hundred meters and laser moves at the speed of light, you can adjust your aim very quickly."

Steinberg, echoing the assessment of Israeli defense officials, says the biggest problem will be

to quickly track short-range rockets hurtling toward Israel and directing the lasers quickly enough so that the enemy's salvo can be destroyed. But he says that lasers are flexible enough to shoot two or three targets within seconds.

"The lasers don't have a reload-

The Nautilus test proved it could destroy a short-range rocket far cheaper cost than other anti-missile projects

ing problem," he says. "Lasers, like a Dick Tracy cartoon, can shoot in two or three different directions. Changing the direction is very simple because you're using mirrors. It has its limits, but it is less limited than a missile-firing system."

Steinberg suggests that the success of Nautilus should push Israel to follow the US's lead and explore using lasers rather than missiles as a means to destroy enemy rockets.

"Not everybody agrees that lasers are the best solution. James Hackett, a leading US missile expert for the San Diego-based Titan Systems, says the technical challenges of any laser system are formidable.

naval vessels from low-flying cruise missiles.

Instead the US Army took over MIRACL and its \$30 million annual budget and now it, too, has not designated funds to continue the project. Indeed, Nautilus only has enough money to operate until the end of September and the Defense Department has not even asked Congress to continue funding.

"We're hoping that Congress will come up with the money by itself," a US Army official says. "In nine months, we've managed to shoot down a rocket. That should speak for itself."

ISRAELI OFFICIALS have shrugged off the debate over the Nautilus. As they see it, the program presents another option for Israel in its development of missile defense.

But privately, they acknowledge that Israel's dependence on the US for these programs has its drawbacks. First, the US has full control of all technology developed in Arrow. Second, Washington can and has vetoed the requests of other friendly countries, such as Korea, to participate in Arrow and defray eventual Israeli costs in deploying the system.

Reconnaissance is another area where US control has hampered Israel's freedom. Some defense sources see Israel's Ofek satellite program as a way to ensure the country's ability to survey enemy territory and provide response time to any missile launch.

The US has expressed displeasure with Ofek, suggesting that it could escalate tensions with Israel's neighbors. Last week in London, senior defense officials, including Ivry, met with CIA chief John Deutch about using Israeli and US satellites in the Middle East.

"There was a discussion but no resolution of the subject," a defense official says.

But Israeli officials add that so far, American pique has not affected their partnership in antimissile defense. They say after another test of Nautilus, Israel and the US will develop a prototype of the laser system - if funding is available - which will include ground-station radar, lasers, and fire-control systems.

At this point, Ivry sees Nautilus as being very different from the Arrow, his focus for the next few years. But the development of Nautilus, he adds, could result in using lasers rather than missiles as an option in destroying enemy ballistic missiles.

Steinberg agrees that for now Israel has plenty of options and need not make any choices.

"We're not anywhere near the point where Israel has to decide which system is the most suitable," Steinberg says.

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A Special Offer for readers of THE JERUSALEM POST

British make dramatic about-turn over library

Ten days ago the British Council announced its closure in west Jerusalem. Now they say it was all a 'misunderstanding,' Tom Gross reports



A visitor browses at the British Council Library. Over 50 percent of its members are native Hebrew speakers. (Brian Hemler)

'Correct decision' ... finally

Greville Janner, the British member of parliament who originally protested the decision to close the British Council library in west Jerusalem, told *The Jerusalem Post* that he was "delighted" with the new decision.

"I had told the Foreign Office minister responsible, Jeremy Handley, that I couldn't think of a worse place or time to close a British Council operation."

"The protests and the publicity that ensued have produced exactly the results they should do in a democracy."

Janner said he had received many letters and faxes from both Britain and Israel. "The nicest one was from a member of the Jerusalem City Council. She sent me a drawing of the library by her nine-year-old daughter saying, 'Please don't close.'"

Janner implied that the official line that it had all been a misunderstanding by Harley Brookes was patently nonsense. "It would be absolutely unique for a British Council director to announce the closure of an operation he runs without first being clearly told from London it was closing."

"The government has obviously reconsidered and now come to the correct decision." T.G.

The announcement on Wednesday that the British Council (BC) library in west Jerusalem was, after all, to remain open was greeted with shouts of joy and enormous sighs of relief by anxious members previously in despair at the thought of its imminent closure.

But the official British Foreign Office line that the original decision to close had all been nothing but a mere "misunderstanding" was greeted with ridicule by those who believed political motivations lay behind the move.

There had been nothing ambiguous about the statement headed "Closure" which was released just one week earlier, on February 6, and handed out to members. The director of the Tel Aviv head office, Harley Brookes, wrote the "very much [regretted] to give the sad news that, owing to the very serious financial cuts that have been imposed on us from London, the British Council library in Jerusalem will cease to function from March 4th, 1996."

Expressions of profound disappointment followed this statement. Member Natasha Lehrer, a CD-ROM producer, summed up the feelings of many. "I'm devastated," she said. But feelings of despair quickly turned to anger, as shocked members telephoned each other to discuss the news.

While it was true that harsh worldwide financial cuts — representing 17 percent of its annual budget — had been imposed on the BC from London, that the offices and libraries in Nazareth, Nablus, Gaza and — most significantly — in east Jerusalem, would not, it seemed, be closing, led many to

conclude that not only financial but also political motivations lay behind the decision.

One distraught reader said out loud in the library, "I think it's an anti-Jewish move," and a staff member nodded in agreement.

These suspicions were further fueled by the seeming suddenness of the decision (a library staff member said it came as a "bolt from the blue") and the fact it would be shutting down outright, without exploring other ways of saving money or finding alternative sources of income.

If Israel's capital is a highly sensitive political and diplomatic issue at the best of times, it will be especially so in the coming months. The British decision is in marked contrast to the decision of the American Cultural Center, which, having had federal budget cuts imposed on them, last December closed their Tel Aviv but not their Jerusalem branch.

Questions were also raised as to why the BC's third branch within the Green Line was located in Nazareth, home to a large Arab population, rather than in other larger towns such as Beersheba or Haifa.

The decision certainly "smells bad," said one prominent British-born Israeli. "At a time when British relations toward Israel are meant to be warming, people are asking if this is how we are to be rewarded for a peace process that has made us feel more and more vulnerable."

That the branch in east Jerusalem is in fact run under a separate organizational and budgetary structure, not connected to Tel Aviv, and the Nazareth office is principally a teaching and

information center, without a library, did nothing to allay suspicions and diminish the vehemence of the ensuing protests.

The British government was clearly stunned by the outpouring of protest that followed, which went well beyond Jerusalem's British and anglophile communities.

Many people here phoned and wrote to *The Jerusalem Post* all lamenting the closure. Seldom can such expressions of emotion and howls of protest been evoked over the closure of what is, relatively speaking, a smallish foreign-language library located in on a quiet, leafy street in the capital's Baka neighborhood.

On February 8, two days after the original notice, a new statement was handed out, saying that no decision had yet been made and "the information conveyed" in the previous statement had been based on a "misunderstanding."

Janner, a well-known advocate for Israel, called the decision "mean and inappropriate." Ulster Unionist MP the Rev. Martin Smyth also protested the decision in the Commons and complaints were made by members of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

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Then, last Wednesday, a new statement was issued. It was to be business as usual. The library would remain open for at least another year and no cuts would be made for the time being.

Brookes had little choice but to toe the line. "I completely deny any political element in the decision. It's all been a misunderstanding," he told the *Post*. But such diplomatic doublespeak fooled few.

The BC, the cultural arm of the Foreign Office, is regarded by

many as a very effective arm of national propaganda, for what is, all said and done, a relatively low budget. It tends to create sympathetic feelings toward Britain, resulting in all sorts of positive economic and cultural benefits which are cost-effective in a way you can't quite quantify.

Nor does it only serve the needs of expat Britons. Over 50 percent of members in Jerusalem are native Hebrew speakers, including several prominent local politicians and academics.

It seems that by reversing the closure decision, the British have reassessed the importance of having a BC presence in west Jerusalem. And even if they won't

admit that it was after all a genuine change of heart, the British no doubt deserve some praise for reconsidering the matter.

"Israel is now a top-priority country for Britain in all shapes and forms," Brookes told the *Post* yesterday.

Today's edition of 'Davar': Is this the final issue?

It looks like the end of the road for the newspaper wrongly dubbed 'the Israeli Pravda'. Michal Yudelman reports

JUST after midnight, the ancient doors of an old building on the corner of Sheinkin and Melchett streets creaked on their hinges and slammed shut. This will almost certainly bring to an end 70 years of press history. Barring any last-minute miracle, *Davar* — *Davar Rishon* for the past eight months — will have shut. This time, judging by the tired faces in the shabby building which had become much more than a mere workplace, no deus ex machina was expected to descend from on high.

"The dice," said one journalist, sadly, as she packed her personal stuff, "were loaded from the start."

A year and a half ago the Histadrut's new leadership decid-

ed to close *Davar* in line with the "new Histadrut's" policy that a labor federation should not own companies.

Davar's journalists gritted their teeth, dug their heels in and fought on, heroically and against all odds. But it was a battle lost before it began. The workers could not find a private financial backer for the newspaper and the Histadrut cut its financial pipeline. It was a death sentence deferred.

Efraim Davidi, the journalists' union chairman, is clear what it means: "We are developing into a cynical society in which anything which isn't profitable doesn't have a right to exist."

On Monday, June 1, 1925 the first

edition of *Davar* — "The Newspaper of the workers of Eretz Yisrael" — hit the newsstands. The editor-in-chief was Berl Katznelson.

Davar was the newspaper of the Labor Movement, a large circle encompassing almost all the nation's leaders and statesmen. Its subscribers included the kibbutzim, Histadrut bodies and members, and all the country's leaders.

The finest writers and poets, from Nathan Alterman to S.Y. Agnon and Uri Zvi Grinberg wrote for it. Its editorials and columnists were quoted everywhere.

Davar faithfully reflected the positions of the Labor movement and the heads of the new Jewish settlements, and its prestige and influence were unequalled from the 1930s to the 1950s.

But the '60s saw the emergence of a new generation which was tired of the paper's didactic tone and its identification with the ruling establishment. In 1969 it still had 175,000 readers, but by then most of them were complimentary subscribers. Only 35,000 copies were paid for.

Gradually *Davar* lost popularity. It was never what anyone might call a "profit-making" organization, and as the advertisers moved off to other newspapers, *Davar* started to lose money.

The Histadrut set up a committee to work out a recovery plan, but in reality it did nothing to revamp the style, or manage it more efficiently, or adjust it to changing Israeli society. All it did was to reduce *Davar's* budget and pay its debts at the end of each year. By the '90s, *Davar's* readers had dwindled to a few thousand and the Histadrut leaders lost interest in it.

When Haim Ramon took the Histadrut by storm in 1994, he saw the way clear to close down what was become not only a money-loser, but another symbol of the old and dying Histadrut like the red flag and socialist values.

As far as Ramon — and much of the public — was concerned, *Davar* was still a political newspaper laying down the party line, and its day was done.

Ramon and the new leadership,



'Davar' employee Mazal examines a copy in the archives. (Israel Sun)

with the election slogan of bringing "new life" to the Histadrut, brought mostly death. *Davar* was one of the casualties.

In fact, *Davar* was nothing like its staid "party-line" image. *Yediot Aharonot* columnist Nahum Barnea wrote this week: "For 15 years I worked for *Davar*. The newspaper was a wonderful school for free journalism, journalism without any real fear of landlord or owner."

"*Davar* was never an airy newspaper, one to take to the beach in summer. There were newspapers which were more modern and richer. But facts had a meaning in *Davar*. So did language. So did culture. The newspaper had much of

the smell of this country. Regrettably, this country has lost its smell to television game shows."

Davar columnist Teddy Preuss also wrote in *Yediot Aharonot* this week: "When I was invited in 1962 to write for *Davar*, I hesitated: would I be able to adjust to the Israeli *Pravda*? When I decided to do so anyway, I soon learned how wrong I had been. Nobody asked what my party affiliation was, and even so-called heretical essays were published."

Ramon suddenly found himself facing off against a determined action committee. Headed by Davidi, Yael Fishbein, Amir Neuman and others, *Davar* fought tooth and nail to find the paper a life-support system.

They formed an action committee which lobbied tirelessly for the Histadrut to let them operate and manage the newspaper, a revolutionary concept never tried in Israel. At the same time they hunted down potential private investors who might buy part of the newspaper's shareholding.

After a few months, Ramon realized that closing down a spirited newspaper might not look so good on his public resume. Along with his colleagues in the Histadrut leadership, MKs Amir Peretz and Haim Oron, he agreed to let the journalists try to operate and manage their own newspaper.

With new editor-in-chief Ron Ben-Yishai — one of Israel's most talented journalists — at the helm, *Davar* received a facelift, a new format, and a new name: *Davar Rishon*.

In less than a year, *Davar Rishon* doubled the number of paying subscribers. It was predicted to break even in another year. *Davar Rishon* came close to accomplishing the impossible and proving that a group of journalists could not only put out their own newspaper, but do it well on a balanced budget.

Davar Rishon's executive committee made these commitments to the Histadrut: to avoid dismissing journalists, to employ most of the defunct *Al Hamishmar's* journalists, to revamp the newspaper, and to find private financial backing to replace the Histadrut.

All commitments but the crucial last one were met. Private investors were not exactly standing in line outside the decrepit doors of the old-new newspaper.

Intensive negotiations with businessman Jean Friedman and Leon Charney ended in failure. As the December 31 deadline approached, the Histadrut refused to renew its financial support.

Ben-Yishai doesn't blame anybody for the newspaper's demise. "It's a tragedy with no villain," he said.

Davidi disagrees. The Histadrut, which shamelessly demands that private employers lay aside calculations of profit and maintain floundering industrial plants in order to support the workers' livelihoods, refused to apply the principle to its own company, *Davar Rishon*.

"In the case of Ouman, the textile plant in Ofakim, the Histadrut set up a battle headquarters to obtain production orders," he said.

"We asked for no more than they did for Ouman."

The government supports losing enterprises with millions of dollars, to prevent unemployment, Davidi said. Only recently, it gave the foreign Intel company \$500 million to build a plant in Kiryat Gat to encourage employment.

There are governments which support newspapers directly, like Austria, which pays an annual \$33 million to non-profitable publications, just to ensure they maintain their high standards.

"The veteran newspaper *Der Zeit*, for which Theodor Herzl used to write, gets a \$3.5 million annual subsidy. France subsidizes newspapers whose subscribers number less than 100,000. These include the religious *La Croix* and the communist *L'Humanité*, supported in the name of media pluralism," Davidi said.

Davar Rishon, which employs 200 workers, was asking for only \$4 million. "*Davar* is the only newspaper in Israel which protects workers' rights and is sensitive to social issues and values, something nobody expects of Nirad and Moses [the families which own *Ma'ariv* and *Yediot Aharonot*, respectively]."

"But the government of Israel believes that a newspaper which isn't making money has no right to exist," Davidi said.

"Today there are only four Hebrew newspapers left, three of them privately owned by three families. By the end of the week *Davar* will close. There will be only three."

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Jerusalem 1996

Bias is chronic at 'The Economist'

EYE ON THE MEDIA
DAVID BAR-ILLAN

LAST week's column focused on the two recent stories about Israel and the Palestinians in *The Economist*, which were slanted to fit the magazine's agenda. These stories were not exceptional. *The Economist's* tendentiousness is a chronic condition.

The Boston-based media-watch organization CAMERA (Committee on Accuracy of Middle East Reporting in America) has made a study of the way the magazine's bias affects its reporting. The following are some excerpts from a recent letter it sent International Editor Stephen Hugh-Jones:

"The *Economist* has consistently promoted Arab perspectives in both its editorials and its news columns — which are themselves laced with opinion — and has failed to report accurately key facts and events necessary to convey a full and balanced picture of the region... *The Economist* has failed to report terrorism committed against Israeli innocents in a manner that accurately reflects the character and ferocity of those campaigns.

"We pointed out that one telling dimension of this chronic minimizing of Israel's vulnerability is the use of sanitized language. In this regard it is instructive to note the publication's more candid terminology for murderous political assaults carried out by various non-Arab groups.

"For example, between the spring of 1994 and the fall of 1995 [the period of CAMERA's analysis of *The Economist's* magazine referred at least 15 times to 'IRA terrorists.' The publication also wrote of Peru's 'Shining Path terrorists,' 'Kurdish terrorists,' and 'Basque terrorists.'

"However, during this same span, when Israel was experiencing more ter-

rorist losses than during any comparable period since the founding of the state, there is not a single characterization of those groups murdering Jews as 'Hamas terrorists,' 'Islamic Jihad terrorists' or 'Arab terrorists.' (The only use of 'Palestinian terrorists' is a passing reference to the 1972 Munich Olympics in a column about the World Cup.)

"Instead, as we have said, your preferred terms for the killers are 'Islamists,' 'activists,' 'guerrillas,' 'suicide-bombers,' 'militants,' 'fighters' and 'rejectionists.' Thus, an egregiously deceptive column on October 15, 1994, describes an attack on Hamas on civilians at a Jerusalem cafe that killed two and maimed others as a 'burst of militarism' carried out by 'Hamas guerrillas.' There is no mention of terrorism or terrorists.

"The piece also castigates Israel yet again for closing her borders in the aftermath of the murders and repeats Arab views about the unfairness of such action. Emblematic of *The Economist's* emphasis is not on the murdered and maimed but on the grievances of the Arabs.

"The reporter provides no detail of the horrific assault that killed 22, turning instead to the anger of the populace. Ezer Weizman is called the 'hot-blooded president' for expressing outrage over the atrocity. Israelis are also reminded not to cause the Arabs 'hardship and frustration' by closing the borders for protection. The same article cites the earlier attack in Jerusalem by Hamas, calling it a 'gun-and-grenade attack.' Not terrorism.

"The editorial that accompanied the news report that week emphasized Arafat's difficult dilemma and the need

to understand it.

"Further examples: Your report on the Afula terror attack in April 1994 that killed seven and maimed dozens speaks only of 'bus terrorism.' In the 10-paragraph article only one concerns the murders; the remainder are devoted to the aftermath of the Hebron massacre and the 'revealed rot' in the IDF that permitted it. No 'rot' is similarly perceived in Arafat's Palestinian Authority that allows Hamas to wage systematic terror campaigns against Jews from training and organizational bases in Gaza.

"A report on the gruesome Hadera bus bombing carried out by Hamas that killed five and wounded dozens a week later contains no mention at all of terrorism or terrorists.

"The murder of two Israelis on May 17 by Hamas is, again, not terrorism in the magazine's lexicon but the action of 'Islamic gunmen.'

"A July 29 report is the only one that contains the straightforward assertion that a bombing, again on a Tel Aviv bus, 'was pure terrorism.'

"...the magazine's flagrant promotion of the Arab agenda demonstrated in continually referring to 'Palestine'... at least 20 times since the Oslo signings you have used 'Palestine' in the body of a story to denote a political entity. There are repeated references to 'Arafat's return to Palestine.' There are references to 'liberated Palestine,' 'occupied Palestine' and 'Palestine's rebirth.'

"We find no references, for instance, to the thuggery of Jibril Rajoub, Arafat's strongman security chief, who has been

implicated in kidnappings, killings and torture of Arabs, a phenomenon that greatly threatens the stability of the autonomous areas now check-by-jowl with Israeli municipalities. Nor has there been mention of Rajoub sweating in Beirut recruits to his security services with Nazi salutes and cries for the 'liberation' of such Israeli cities as Haifa and Ashdod.

TO HUGH-JONES'S credit, he has conscientiously responded to all the critical letters CAMERA and London media-watcher Ruth Willers have sent him. He has not succeeded in refuting a single major charge — the magazine's record speaks for itself. But his answers do provide some insight into one of the most puzzling phenomena of our time — the almost universal anti-Israel tone of the world media.

Hugh-Jones is obviously sorely irritated by these attacks on his journalistic integrity. Why he gets so livid is not within the competence of this column. But it is astonishing to find a senior editor of the leading British news magazine referring to factual, carefully-researched criticism as "farrago of nonsense," "codswallop," "a set of libels," and "rubbish," announcing that "life is too short to answer all [these] charges," and calling his critics "propagandists... whose job is to distort [the truth]," and "a bunch of self-appointed guardians of morals."

It is also surprising to find him using an argument one does not expect in a serious communication: "CAMERA... is

a pro-Israel lobby. *The Economist* is a news weekly eager for a durable peace and for justice — without which there will be no peace — in the Middle East, but committed to neither side in the Israeli-Palestinian argument, since we accept that both sides have powerful points.

"It is of course possible that such a weekly is guilty of bias and propaganda, while the committed lobby tells impartial truth. Or, of course, just possibly things may be the other way about. Which is more likely?"

To be charitable, it may be that Hugh-Jones really believes that, as he put it in one of his letters, "It was until recently hard to report the Palestinian side properly: the PLO was banned, or miles away in Tunis, the West Bank and Gaza were wholly under military occupation. Since Oslo, we and others have been able to do a more balanced job. Inevitably, this means, on occasion, reporting facts or views far removed from the easy 'Israeli' good, Palestinian terrorists' plainly dear to some who write to us to object."

Reading such "reasoning" makes one wonder where Hugh-Jones has been in the past two decades. No head of state, with the possible exception of the American president, has received greater attention, more media exposure and more favorable press than Arafat. Nor has any terrorist organization been treated more sympathetically than the PLO, nor any cause championed with greater ardor than that of the Palestinians.

Clearly, one of the most dedicated of these champions is Hugh-Jones himself. Not that he is alone in viewing the Palestinians as a people robbed of its

land and oppressed by Israel rather than as a spearhead of an Arab world bent on Israel's destruction.

If he is different it is because he so consistently treats other "liberation movements" with none of the sympathy he lavishes on the Palestinians. A CAMERA study comparing *The Economist's* attitude on the Kurds and the Palestinians is instructive. (A comparison with the treatment of the IRA would have been even more striking.) On every important issue, whether they deserve a state; their prospects of attaining one; the terminology regarding the land they claim; and the use of the term terrorism — the PLO is treated with admiration while the Kurds PKK is excoriated and dismissed as a "terrorist outfit."

Instructive, too, is what irritated Hugh-Jones more than any other charge. In pointing out that IRA gunmen are always called terrorists while the Hamas and other Palestinian terrorists never are, CAMERA wrote, "Apparently the spilling of British blood deserves the appellation [terrorism], the spilling of Jewish blood doesn't."

This Hugh-Jones interpreted as an accusation of antisemitism — "the allegation urelessly aimed by any weapon-will-do propagandists, at those who criticize Israel." His rage is palpable: "We over here — not less in this office — have a significant minority of people who are both British and Jewish; and all of us know of some have lived through, the days when similar distinctions were being drawn between 'Jewish blood' and German blood... I do not like CAMERA to the Nazis... I do say your choice of language is a dangerous one..."

The gentleman doth protest too much, methinks.

When the news media act as partners in the debate

THE major, probably the sole, beneficiaries of a bill now before the Knesset will be the coalition parties, unless stringent stipulations protecting the rights of the opposition are written into it.

The bill would lift the ban on the broadcasting by TV Channels 1 and 2 of events featuring candidates for election to the Knesset during the 30 days before Election Day.

Submitted by Labor whip Haggai Merom and Tzomet whip Eliezer Zandberg, it was approved last week by the Knesset Law Committee for first reading in the plenum.

The lifting of the ban is certain to make our TV the virtual exclusive mouthpiece of the coalition candidates, just as it is now the virtual house organ of the government and its allies.

How many official and other public events worthy of coverage, by the strictest standards of objectivity, are candidates of opposition parties likely to feature in as compared to candidates of the coalition parties, which include current cabinet ministers?

And we know how our TV (radio, too) has relegated dissenting personages, views and activities to virtual pariah status — except eccentric ones or those it stages, like the infamous Eyal "swearing-in" ceremony organized for the ITV crew by a GSS provocateur.

A VIEW FROM NOV MOSHE KOHN

Sunday, November 5, featured 12 "political" participants identified with Labor and other left-wing parties; six persons appearing as friends or former colleagues of Rabin, also identified with the left; three identified with right-wing parties; and three neutrals.

The leftist "political" had the screen for 2,970 seconds, or 71% of the time; the rightists — 1,045 seconds (25%); the neutrals — 165 seconds (4%).

The regular *Popolitika* of November 7 featured four speakers from each side. The left was given 68% of the time, with 1,390 seconds, including several minutes during which Finance Minister Avraham Shohat had the screen to himself and then shared it only with Meretz MK Naomi Chazan; and the right, 643 seconds (32%).

The special 90-minute *Shalom Rabin* broadcast of November 8 had five speakers from the left, none from the right, and a "neutral," academic expert on Israel's Orthodox community. The left viewpoint had 85% of the time (3,679 seconds).

During this time, Media Watch notes, writers Amos Oz and A.B. Yehoshua cautioned against stereotyping and global condemnation.

The neutral expert got the remaining 15% (639 seconds).

The Friday evening *Rban* weekly news magazine of November 10 featured four Labor people (1,161 seconds), two from the Likud (778 seconds), and Henry Kissinger (13 minutes).

The news-and-interview programs featured a combined total of 107 personalities that week. 54 supporters of government policy (50%), 32 opponents (30%) and 29 neutrals (20%).

February 22 and March 8 and during all of July, it published its findings, prepared by Medad and Media Watch co-founder and chairman Prof. Eli Pollack, in September (surveyed in the October 20 *Jerusalem Post* by David Bar-Ilan).

Israel Line proved to be more an organ of the Foreign Ministry's Labor management than an objective survey. Here are a few reminders:

"It did not carry a single item from the *Post* among the more than 200 it carried from various newspapers in both periods.

In the February 22-March 8 period, *Davar*, then the low-circulation organ of the Histadrut, and the now-defunct *Mamam* daily *Al Hamishmar* (which also has a low circulation) were the combined source of 35% of the 40-odd items, with another 35% coming from the professedly independent but left-leaning *Ha'aretz*, *Yedioth Aharonot* and *Ma'ariv*, the latter two being mass-circulation newspapers.

Of 140 items in July, *Ha'aretz* was the source of 40%; *Israel Radio* — 25%; *Davar* — 24%; *Yedioth Aharonot* — 5.7%; *Ma'ariv* — 5%; ITV Channel 1 — 2.1%.

It reported none of the major demonstrations protesting against government policy that took place in different parts of the country in July, except to mention the IDF's ejection of Jewish squatters from Givat Hadagan in Efrat.

Among the personalities mentioned were Rabin, 65 times; then-foreign minister Shimon Peres (63); Yasser Arafat (26); US negotiator Dennis Ross (17); then-deputy foreign minister Yossi Beilin (12); Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu and Labor MK and Third Way co-founder Avigdor Kahalani each got all of two mentions.

Media Watch is in the process of collating the findings of a follow-up survey of *Israel Line*.

DR. JOSEPH Lerner, co-director of IMRA/Independent Media Review and Analysis, suggests that an independent ombudsman committee monitor TV and radio during the pre-election period, and that those media give the ombudsman, say, 15-minute daily to report on the "balance of coverage."



Spousal love is a direct result of parental love

SHABBAT SHALOM SHLOMO RISKIN

"And if a man sell his daughter to be a maidservant, she shall not go out as the menservants do. If she please not her master, who has not espoused her to himself, then shall he let her be redeemed; to sell her unto foreign people he shall have no power. And if he espouse her unto his son, he shall deal with her after the manner of daughters. If he take him another wife, her food, her raiment, and her conjugal rights shall he not diminish." (Exodus 21:7-10)

Who doesn't feel shocked by the notion of a man selling his daughter into slavery? How jarring such verses seem to those of us used to studying the portion of the week with an eye to its contemporary application!

What compounds this matter is that the Sages derive the fundamental legal requirements of a husband toward his wife from this passage! The Bible allows the master or his son to take this serving girl as a wife (only with her consent, of course), and furthermore stipulates that even if the son should subsequently take another wife, he may not diminish the food, clothing and sexual gratification that he owes the first; hence, food, clothing, and conjugal rights are a husband's marital obligations toward a wife, codified and guaranteed in the *ketuba*.

One must remember that the Torah not only speaks to every generation; it also spoke to the generation in which it was first given. And in the ancient world,

feeding one's children was a major challenge. "Selling" them as apprentices was a way of teaching them a trade and being relieved of having to support them.

The limits which Oral Law placed on slavery — forbidding menial or unlimited work and insisting that the slave receive identical living conditions as were enjoyed by the master — effectively redefined servitude as apprenticeship.

From this perspective, the true purpose of the aforementioned law is to protect the rights of every girl in a Jewish household. The real point of the biblical passage is the limitation of the father's control.

First and foremost, Rashi explains, there is a strict time limit as to when a daughter can be placed in another household as a servant-apprentice; only if she is under 12, or before she has begun of sexual maturity. As soon as this happens, she either returns to her parents' home or marries her employer (if both parties consent).

And when we remember that the Oral Law insisted that a father could only enter his daughter into such an apprenticeship arrangement if he had absolutely nothing else to sell, we realize that the Bible is providing a poor girl with a unique opportunity to enter a higher class.

Deriving the obligations of a

husband toward his wife from this particular context is a logical extension of everything we have been saying. If indeed she is married by her employer, he must understand that she is his wife and not his servant; and the girl's father must understand that the goal of the apprenticeship is marriage.

It certainly is also important to note that long before the Kinsey Report, the Torah recognized that women had legitimate sexual needs. Indeed, the Bible requires a husband to satisfy his wife, but does not explicitly enjoin a wife to satisfy her husband.

Deriving the laws of a husband's requirements from this context is significant for another reason. The two fundamental relationships in this passage become intertwined and are perhaps therefore mutually conditional: parent to child (father to daughter) and spouse to spouse (husband to wife).

All of the laws in this week's portion of *Mishpatim* constitute *law qua law*; we're not concerned with the story behind them. But between the lines of these verses is a world of unspoken feelings and familial drama. Imagine the overwhelming shame that must result from having to sell one's daughter, even as an apprentice, and then the sustaining hope that she will be well provided for in marriage.

Herein we find universal expressions of the human heart as well as a practical means for

social and economic advancement in what had always been a static society.

THERE is yet another human lesson in linking marital obligations to the limitations of parental control.

Interestingly, the first expression of love in the Torah does not appear in the context of man and woman, but rather refers to the love between father and child. Appearing to Abraham in the context of the binding, God commands, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac..." (Gen. 22:2)

It is only because Abraham understands that Isaac belongs not to him but to God — and is therefore free — that he can even begin to acquiesce to the binding. And when does the word "love" appear for the second time? After Abraham's servant Eliezer returns with Rebecca, we are told that "Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebecca, and she became his wife and he loved her." (24:67)

What this suggests is that every successful husband-wife relationship is a direct outgrowth of having experienced healthy, trust-inspiring parental love. The formula seems simple enough. If parents show love to a child, they enable him to love and feel worthy of love.

Now if we reread the verses quoted above, we will discover how the realities of another age can still contain meaningful lessons for our generation.

Shabbat Shalom

Taking care of the elderly, children and new immigrants

**FUNDS
BEVERLEE BLACK**

I'm not writing my weekly appeal from my usual place, my desk.

I'm writing this in bed, where some bug from Johannesburg or Timbuktu has laid me low.

But it is amazing how being temporarily incapacitated has allowed me to concentrate on the less fortunate members of our country who suffer on a fairly regular basis.

Our three funds try to cover the whole gamut of these fellow citizens, whether they are elderly

people living on their own in cold, substandard housing, subsisting on bread and milk, with arthritic bones and bad teeth; or children in institutions and foster homes with limited budgets, missing the parties and presents of family life, or new immigrants walking five km. to work or university, trying to make ends meet in a strange land.

So, when I get back to work in a few days, I hope to find a great pile of letters on my desk, each accompanied with a generous check or credit card donation.

Don't let me down, because I've resolved, with your help, not to let

them down.

Please send your contributions to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

Donors in the US wishing to receive tax benefits can send their donations to: Friends of the Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

FORSAKE ME NOT

NIS 500 Margit Neufeld, Haifa.
NIS 350 For Reuben Rose (21) on his seventh yahrzeit, remembered with love and sadness — Susie Rose, Haifa.

NIS 250 Essex International Ltd., Tel Aviv
NIS 200 in honor of the 100th birthday of our cousin Sarah Shapiro Blusstein — Abe and Edie Less and Nachum and Nechama Rosen. In fondest remembrance of Zvi — Etie.
NIS 103 On the occasion of the 103rd birthday of Dr. Lotie Aroshim on February 19th — The Family.
NIS 100 in honor of Dr. Geoff Collins on his 60th birthday — Dorothy and Jasmond Birkhan, Haifa. In memory of May Stone — from C. and A. In loving memory of my parents and little sister who perished in Auschwitz — E. Laufer, Haifa. In memory of Sadie Goldman, a very gracious lady and my dearest friend — Rosa Shaw, Herzliya.
NIS 18 in honor of Joe and Mildred

Bloom's 52nd wedding anniversary — CEE, Haifa.
NIS 10 E. Rosenstein, Netanya.
NIS 6 Anon.
\$200 Evid Mueller, Fayetteville, AR. \$120 in honor of the 50th anniversary of Reena and Harold, with fond good wishes for many more happy years together — An Admiring Friend.
\$60 Jay Gold, New York, NY.
\$25 in memory of my uncle Samuel Elias Hidalgo — Samuel Andrade, Caracas, Venezuela.

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 2,019	NIS 184,165
\$405	\$10,785

TOY FUND

NIS 350 For Reuben Rose (21) on his seventh yahrzeit remembered with love and sadness — Susie Rose, Haifa.
NIS 300 On the yahrzeit of our sister Judith Horowitz.
NIS 70 Richard Haim and Family, Eilat.
NIS 50 In loving memory of Yarden — Love, Eyal, Avishai and Miki.
NIS 36 In honor of our father and grandfather Nathan Shebatan on his birthday — Hassid Family, Netanya.
\$164 Temple Beth Elohim, Old Bethpage, NY.
\$60 Jay Gold, New York, NY.

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 906	NIS 14,609.95
\$224	\$9,606.69

WELCOME HOME FUND

NIS 350 For Reuben Rose (21) on his seventh yahrzeit remembered with love and sadness — Susie Rose, Haifa.
NIS 300 To help other olim, on the fifth anniversary of our aliyah — Joan and Pesach Krauss, J'lm.
NIS 100 In loving memory of Little Rosen — the Naumers, J'lm.
NIS 10 E. Rosenstein, Netanya
\$60 Jay Gold, New York, NY.
\$18 In honor of David Bar-Ilan's birthday — Noga Revetz, Cedar Grove, NJ.

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 760	NIS 2,717
\$78	\$2,738

The rights of the amateurs

CHES
NICK KOPALOFF

The Israel Chess Federation's magazine *Shahmat* is one of the finest around and comparable in its standard and format to many top European chess journals. However, it almost exclusively focuses on World class players, leaving club level players and general enthusiasts to sometimes feel that they are devoting far too much energy to the wrong pastime.

David Deutsch of Kfar Sava voiced that same grievance about this column, recommending it periodically cite weaker players. By so doing, he maintains, the enthusiast can learn from the blatant blunders committed by those of similar playing strength.

At top levels of play, he adds, chess mistakes are so often indistinguishable that they can go unnoticed by the amateur. There is no doubt that analysis of games played by mere enthusiasts can provide them with the incentive and motivation to take their game to much higher levels.

In response to Deutsch's claims, readers are invited to send in games they feel are worthy of annotation.

Napoleon Bonaparte was a chess enthusiast. He was also the emperor of France. Following his exile to St. Helena, Napoleon continued his warring tendencies, but was only able to see them through over the chess board. His method of playing demonstrated a clear preference for spatial and territorial expansion as opposed to quiet positional development.

**Napoleon Bonaparte, General Bertrand
St. Helena, 1818
Scotch Game**

1.N3 Nc6 2.e4 e5 3.d4; The Scotch Game was once a favorite with Blackburne and Chigorin. It quickly fell out of favor, despite attempts at rehabilitation by the Israeli master Moshe Czerniak. In recent years, PCA World Champion Garry Kasparov has popularized the Scotch.

3...Nxd4; this is a very rare and most probably inferior line to the standard 3...xd4.

4.Nxd4; On 4.Nxe5 Black would retreat his knight to c6 with a cramped but very playable game.

4...exd4 5.Bc4 Bc5 6.c3 Qe7 7.0-0 Qe5 8.f4 dxc3+ 9.Kh1 cxb2

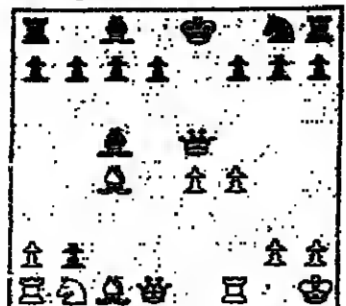


DIAGRAM 1

after Black's 9th move 10.Bxf7+; avoiding winning the queen with the simple 10.fxe5 hx1=Q and then capturing on f7. Bonaparte reverses the move order in the hope that after 10.Bxf7+ Kxf7 11.fxe5+ he will win a whole Queen with a check tempo and then in the next move capture the dangerous Black pawn on h2.

10...Kd8 11.fxe5 bxa1=Q 12.Bxg8 Be7; If 12...Rxe8 Bonaparte cleans up with 13.Qd5. 13.Qh3 a5? 14.Rxf8+ Bxf8 15.Bg5+ Be7 16.Kxf7 Kxf7 17.Qf7+ Kd8 18.Qf8++ 1-0 The following White to play and win position, taken from the game played by Lasker and Mazar, can hardly be regarded as cryptic. But the player with the White pieces is neither the former World Champion Emanuel Lasker nor the great German master Edward Lasker.

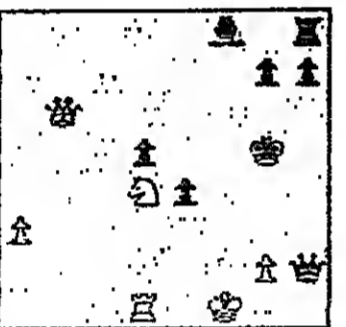


DIAGRAM 2

Solution: 1.N3+ exf3 2.Rxd5+ Kg4 3.Qd4+ Qf4; 3...Kg3 4.Rg5++ 4.gxf3+ Kxf3 4...Ke3 5.Qf2 Kh3 6.Rh5+ Qh4 7.Rxh4++ 5.Qe2+ Kg4 6.Rd4 winning the Black Queen with a difficult yet won position for White. 1-0



Scenes like this make the Hula wetlands a nature-lover's paradise. (Teddy Kander)

Making a comeback

NATURE
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Though many wild animals, plants, and birds have been decimated in this century, there are still some singularly outstanding conservation successes, especially here.

Just two winters ago, a portion of the Hula wetlands was reflooded. This wetland had been drained in the '50s in the Hula Reclamation Project, creating the stretch of dried peat moss several meters deep that had turned into a wasteland. Not much grew there and the peat was tunneled by millions of voles.

In unsuccessful attempts to get rid of them, the Agriculture Ministry had, for years, carried out massive poisoning campaigns. The vole population survived quite successfully, but many of the predatory birds that fed on the poisoned voles died.

In addition, fires broke out in the morass of peat and burned underground for weeks at a time, spreading through the voles' tunnel network.

source to keep the fires ablaze. All of this poison and ash and soot was annually swept down into the Kinneret when the rains came.

Wildlife, particularly the once-rich bird life of the area, disappeared for the most part. In the late '50s fewer than 100 cranes chose to winter in the now "reclaimed" area, although tens of thousands of these birds had wintered there before the reclamation. This number did gradually increase and every winter in recent years about 2,500 cranes came to the Hula reserve — the only part of the once vast Hula wetlands to survive in something resembling its natural state — and in the surrounding areas.

But this year, only two years after reflooding the swamp, 16,000 cranes have been sighted there. Just how they found this

clear, but they are a sight to delight the heart of any viewer.

There are also more dabbling ducks in the new area than anyone remembers seeing for years, as well as many other species that had almost ceased to spend a part of their lives here. In fact, it is all happening much faster than even the most enthusiastic nature lover dreamed.

The native flora is also making a comeback; there are new clumps of papyrus and other water plants. The dabblers are finding quite enough duckweed and other aquatic plants to satisfy their needs. And all of this in a short two winters.

Just what the future will hold for this wonderful new-old wetland remains to be seen. Right now there is a lot of discussion about whether to keep it for nature or make a hotel complex and holiday area of it. But one thing is for certain — the idea of reflooding a part of the Hula has turned out to be more successful than even the visionaries imagined.

Champion imports set the pace

BRIDGE
MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

West dealer
North-South vulnerable

North	
AK82	
4	
QJ109873	
3	
East	
965	
2	
65	
10986542	
South	
73	
KQJ1075	
K	
AQJ7	

West North East South
1♥ 2♠ pass 3NT
(all pass)

Opening lead: ♠Q

The most exciting tournament of the year for Israeli bridge players began yesterday, with the opening of the 30th International Bridge Festival in Tel-Aviv, sponsored by Dubek. More than \$25,000 in prize money will be at stake and many star players from around the world will take part.

Since Israel is a nation with many immigrants, it is natural that many of its top players began their bridge careers elsewhere. Two such players finished first and second in the Beit America women's championship, a five-week tournament concluded Sunday.

Former American Pamela Granovetter of Netanya, partnered by Rosy Bezner of Tel Aviv, won the event, capping a strong winter in which they also won the seven-session Tel Aviv women's championship of Beit Bridge Club. Runners-up were Matilda Lorer, formerly of Bulgaria, and her partner, Tova Benor, of Tel Aviv.

Lorer and Granovetter have won numerous major championships but have yet to play internationally for Israel.

Today's deal was played in the Beit America five-session open-pair championship, the final event staged at this bridge club before closing its doors this week and merging with Beit Bridge. Granovetter, who was South in the diagram, reached three notrump after West had opened the bidding one heart. This contract would be easy if West had

led a heart. Declarer could win, play the king of diamonds, ducked by West, followed by a spade to dummy for another diamond play.

The two entries to dummy in the spade suit would provide declarer with the opportunity to establish the diamond suit and return to dummy to cash the diamond winners. At the table, however, West found the killing opening lead of the spade queen, destroying one of dummy's vital entries.

Declarer won the first trick with the king of spades and led a diamond to the king, ducked by West. Now declarer attacked hearts, leading the king to West's ace.

West continued spades with the 10, and declarer ducked, so West persisted with the spade four, won by dummy's ace. The defense now had four sure tricks, two spades and two aces. Meanwhile, declarer counted her winners. She had two spade tricks, three hearts and one diamond, six tricks, and, therefore, needed three club tricks for her contract.

This was a peculiar situation. Normally, the finesse in clubs would be the correct play, especially in view of the fact that East was known to hold six or seven clubs (West had shown up with nine major-suit cards and at least two diamonds). In fact, the finesse was the clear percentage play for two club tricks, but it would do declarer no good in this case, because she needed three.

Granovetter led the queen of diamonds to West, giving him an opportunity to make a mistake by leading a club. But West won, cashed the jack of spades and continued with the nine of hearts to South. Finally, in desperation, the ace of clubs was played and, when the king fell, declarer had nine winners and her contract.

AMONG THE championship events this week at the Tel Aviv Convention Center are a two-session mixed pairs at 4 and 8 p.m. Sunday; a three-session open pairs at 4 and 8 Monday, and 4 Tuesday; a one-session top-bottom, at 8 p.m. Tuesday; a one-session mixed pairs, at 4 Wednesday, and a three-session Swiss teams at 8 Wednesday, and 4 Thursday. For more information, phone the Israeli Bridge Federation at (06) 3353333.

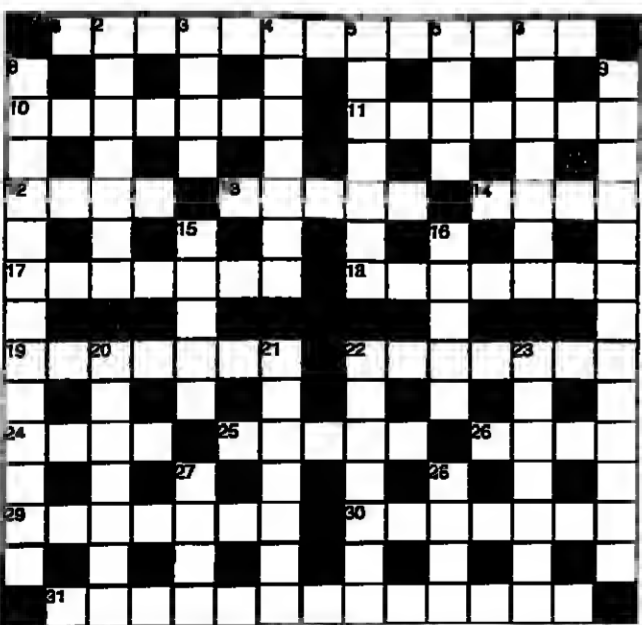
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 A christer nnt involved in the arrangement (13)
- 10 Led a nun astray, but not charged (7)
- 11 Possibly show me love in one way or another (7)
- 12 It's about time to revise (4)
- 13 Having little to say about trees (5)
- 14 A helpful guide, nr hint, left inside (4)
- 17 He doesn't appreciate where the coal goes (7)
- 18 Stretch a point and look inside (7)
- 19 A deerstalker's comedown? (7)
- 22 Arched and jumped (7)
- 24 Love to operate on the river (4)

DOWN

- 25 Vehicle to travel as freight (5)
- 26 Wa four are coming back to have a look (4)
- 29 Strum about like a politician in a tantrum (7)
- 30 His examinations necessitate a lot of book-work (7)
- 31 Mandarin painting's condition (5,2,3,3)



SOLUTIONS

YESTERDAY'S QUICK SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1 Potent, 4 Hates, 8 Absent, 9 Answer, 10 Subsoil, 11 Idle, 12 Tom, 14 Leak, 15 Idea, 18 Say, 21 Alps, 23 Evident, 26 Harbour, 28 Theme, 27 Host, 28 Crates.
DOWN: 1 Praise, 2 Trouble, 3 Networks, 4 Bush, 5 Trend, 6 Sister, 7 Family, 13 Minister, 18 Everest, 17 Father, 19 Years, 20 Utters, 22 Parks, 24 Coat.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Seven days (4)
- 3 Reaction (5)
- 9 Time waster (5)
- 10 Front limb (7)
- 11 Beverage (3)
- 13 Riding fast (9)
- 14 Wine storeroom (5)
- 16 Recompense (5)
- 18 Late hours activist (9)
- 20 Insect (3)
- 22 Trips (7)
- 23 Fiend (5)
- 25 Bare runner (8)
- 26 Skilful (4)

DOWN

- 1 Middle of trunk (5)
- 2 Slippery fish (3)
- 4 Embrace (6)
- 5 Determination (7)
- 6 Barren woman (9)
- 7 Betrothed (7)
- 8 Boast (4)
- 12 Crocodilian (9)
- 14 Film examiners (7)
- 15 Aerial (7)
- 17 Soft paper (6)
- 19 Extinct bird (4)
- 21 Strained (5)
- 24 Crowd (3)

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Time to finish pruning those rose bushes

GARDENING
INEZ KLIMIST

Unlike the rest of the world, we are having a rather mild winter. The narcissus are blooming, and in sheltered gardens the iris and the alyssum are also blooming. In the woods around Jerusalem, cyclamen and crocus abound, and Galilee is bursting with its yearly show of flowers.

So it's high time we finish pruning our rose bushes, as they are already pushing out the red growth of new leaves, even in the colder mountain areas.

We should at this time remember the three basic rules for all pruning — the weaker last year's growth, the more severely you must prune; prune hard for larger and fewer flowers; prune less for more flowers; and wear a pair of sturdy gloves and long sleeves to avoid getting scratched.

We must keep in mind that the more healthy green leaves the plant grows, the more roses it will produce. Start by removing any suckers left from last year. You can quite easily recognize them, as suckers usually come up from below the level of the soil and always from below the scion (the large graft).

Do not cut these, as they will have a tendency to grow right

back. Instead, dig down far enough to see the spot where the sucker sprouts, and break it off as close to the main stem as you can. They grow much faster than the grafted part of the plant, draining away strength and producing inferior roses, if any at all.

You don't want them. Leave as much of last year's growth as you can, pruning back only enough to shape your bush. Leave two-thirds of the bush intact or cut down to no less than 45 centimeters. Cut out very old canes to open the center of your plant, leaving space for vigorous new growth. No more than five canes should be coming out of the scion, so new growth will have enough space to grow.

The bush, ideally, should be cup-shaped, with an open area in the center so the sun can shine directly on the scion. Cut old growth close to the scion with a very sharp pruning secateur. No stub should remain. If the branch is too thick or too hard for a secateur, use a small saw. Never try to break or twist off a branch.

Next, cut away all ends which have been damaged by wind, frost

or other trauma. Snip these off just where you see the green stem showing. The end of the cut should show white clear wood. If there are traces of brown in the wood, cut away a bit more. Make all your cuts 1 cm. above a bud.

Cut farther away, and you will end up with an unsightly stub, cut less and you may injure the new leaf. Shape the bush to the size you want and then quit. Clean up the area around the plants. Get rid of weeds and old leaves, and dig a bit to aerate the soil. Keeping the soil clean will prevent disease later.

The only other thing you need to do is cover the larger of the wounds with some type of sealant to prevent invasions by bugs or disease. You can simply cover the cut with a bit of white paint, or smear on a bit of white or clear bath-tub sealant. You can use a special sealing compound from the nursery. Whatever you use, make sure it is white or clear, because dark colors will absorb too much sunlight and may burn the plant.

Give your rose bushes a good feeding with a liquid fertilizer to start them off right. Pour it right over the plant, not just on the roots. Then get ready for some wonderful flowers.

In these times you cannot
AFFORD to be without
THE JERUSALEM
POST



03-6191666

Tales of Gold Rush days reward walkers in San Francisco

A historic red-light district and hidden rooftop gardens are among the highlights of free walking tours in the city, Esther Hecht reports

Twelve red-headed Jewesses, all in one brothel, were among the most sought-after San Francisco prostitutes in the heady years after the Gold Rush.

They fetched a higher price because they were considered exotic. People were curious as to whether they were anatomically the same as other women. Mary Granger tells the participants in her walking tour of what was once the city's red-light district. Today it is a tiny downtown street, ironically named Maiden Lane, lined with posh shops and elegant restaurants.

The women on what was then Morton Street were among the worst off of the bawds, handling up to 100 customers a night in tiny rented rooms — less than 4 square meters — called cribs.

Each crib had a small bed, a chair and a basin. At the foot of the bed there was a red or brown oilcloth. Granger says. "This was to protect the carpet, because the street was muddy, and men took off only their hats."

Granger, a retired teacher and librarian, is a City Guide, one of a group of volunteers affiliated with the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. Her tour was one of 24 offered recently, in a city which — with its temperate climate and magnificent vistas — is a walkers' paradise. The tours, studded with anecdotes about the city's unusual history and architecture, are as entertaining as they are informative, and they are free (through a donation is requested).

According to Granger, who bases her talk on Kurt Genzky's *The Madams of San Francisco*, French prostitutes, too, were a big hit in the woman-starved Gold Rush days. They sat at lures at gaming tables in gambling establishments, where men had to pay just to sit next to them. It was only

after hours that they worked as prostitutes.

About 2,000 of them were part of a contingent of 5,000 indigent French citizens whose passage to the United States was paid by a lottery raised by president Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte. Some made enough money to return to France and live in comfort.

Until 1855, gamblers and courtisans were the "royalty of San Francisco," but when families started settling the city, madams had to find more discreet ways to lure customers. They instituted the prostitutes' ball, where they could show off new arrivals.

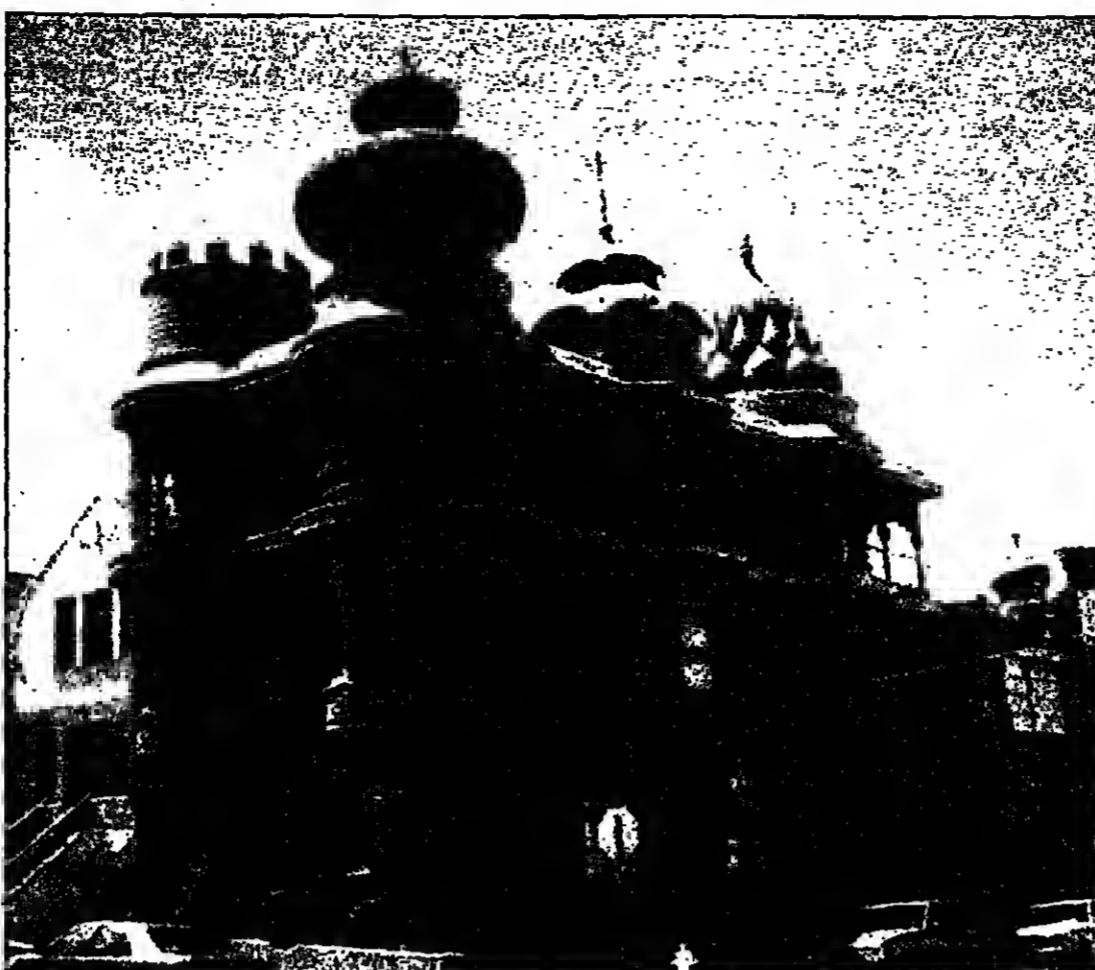
"Society women learned not to schedule events on competing days," Granger says.

Morton Street was not exclusively a red-light district (though, yes, there really were lights with red shades). It had a yeast factory, a laundry, and other smelly businesses. Perhaps that is why the chambers of the State Supreme Court on nearby Post Street had direct access to the cribs.

The saddest chapter of all and the longest involved girls imported from China, sold into prostitution by their peasant families when famine struck. They received no medical care, and were not allowed to refuse any customer. They were forced to wear distinctive clothing, so it was hard to escape. Most started working at 14 and were dead by 20.

WHILE SOME women toiled in the cribs, others could be found at "wasberwomen's lagoon," a fresh-water lake in the area bordered today by Union, Franklin, Occavia and Filbert streets.

It was here that in 1850 a visitor said he saw "men up to their waists, in water scrubbing their shirts; so hard the buttons were



This former Vedanta temple, now a monastery, is in Cow Hollow, a San Francisco neighborhood that is a living textbook of architectural styles.

about to pop off," says Dr. Don Andreini, a historian who grew up in the heavily Italian neighborhood called Cow Hollow. His tour, up and down hills with some of the most stupendous views in the city, combines personal recollections with a well-researched introduction to the past. "At one time there was an outlet to the bay and tidal action cleansed the lake, but shifting sands closed it," he says. Then effluents from a tannery, soap and tallow works, and dairy farms — from which the neighborhood got its name — polluted the lake; by the end of the 1870s the city started filling it in.

Unlike other neighborhoods in the city, Cow Hollow developed piecemeal, and thus has a wide

variety of architecture, including many 19th-century structures that escaped the devastating fire that followed the 1906 earthquake. One of the best-known is Octagon House, built in 1861, which Andreini could see and fantasize about from the windows of his elementary school classroom. The house, with its "inkwell" cupola, was designed by Orson Fowler, an inventor and reformer who believed the octagonal shape was more efficient and conducive to health than a rectangle.

Today the area has a combination of beautiful mansions, upscale apartment houses and a yuppie commercial district. PARADOXICALLY, one of the worst periods in American history — the years of the Great Depression — yielded some of the city's finest art treasures. To keep local artists from starving, the federal government was persuaded to employ them in creating frescoes and other monumental art in schools and other public buildings, as well as in Coit Tower, atop Telegraph Hill — a site that most tourists visit for its unparalleled view.

Georgiane Lansing, whose lively tour is full of piquant detail about the relations between the artists as reflected in their work. Tour participants also have a chance to see some of the most interesting of the frescoes, normally closed to the public because they are painted on both sides of a narrow, winding staircase.

One of the artists was Bernard Zakheim, whose depiction of a library incorporates a portrait of himself poring over a Bible (the Hebrew acronym "Tanach" is on the binding). *Coit Tower, San Francisco: Its History and Art*, by this artist's daughter, Masha Zakheim Jewett, offers additional detail and lists other places in the city where the artists' work can be seen. Regrettably, both the book and the tour contain some disturbing inaccuracies.

because so few people know about them. They are a perfect place for visitors to rest their feet after a walking tour.

The city has a strict sunshine ordinance that limits shadows on open areas, Grace Thorp tells participants on her tour. "At first the planners did a mockup with cardboard maquettes; now it is computerized," she says on a tour that is more notable for the places it reveals than for the accompanying lore.

Love in the Haight

JUST as the police were responding to a complaint from neighbors about a noisy drug party on Haight Street in the Sixties, Rudolf Nureyev walked in and announced, "It's not a party if I'm not here."

His partner, Margot Fonteyn, was hiding in another room. The police rounded up everyone, but — unable to identify the possessors of illegal drugs — released Nureyev and Fonteyn in time for them to perform that night.

How the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood developed, at the turn of the century from sandy dunes on the outskirts of the city, how it became the mecca for flower children, and what happened after is the subject of *Flower Power*, a commercial tour by Rachel Heller, who lives in the Haight but is not an erstwhile hippie. The tour grew out of a final project she did for a graduate course in geography, and she is careful to point what is verifiable fact and what is hearsay.

Many of the houses in the area are beautifully restored Victorians, and she includes a brief introduction to San Francisco architecture in her tour. Allow more than two hours: Heller has a lot to say, and it's worth hearing. The price is \$15.

A COMPLETELY different kind of commercial tour is Java Walk, an introduction to San Francisco's coffee culture, in the North Beach area. Though Elaine Sosa is enthusiastic and tells some interesting anecdotes, much of the "tour" is spent in cafes; a visitor could probably locate without a guide, and the coffee is not included in the \$15 fee.

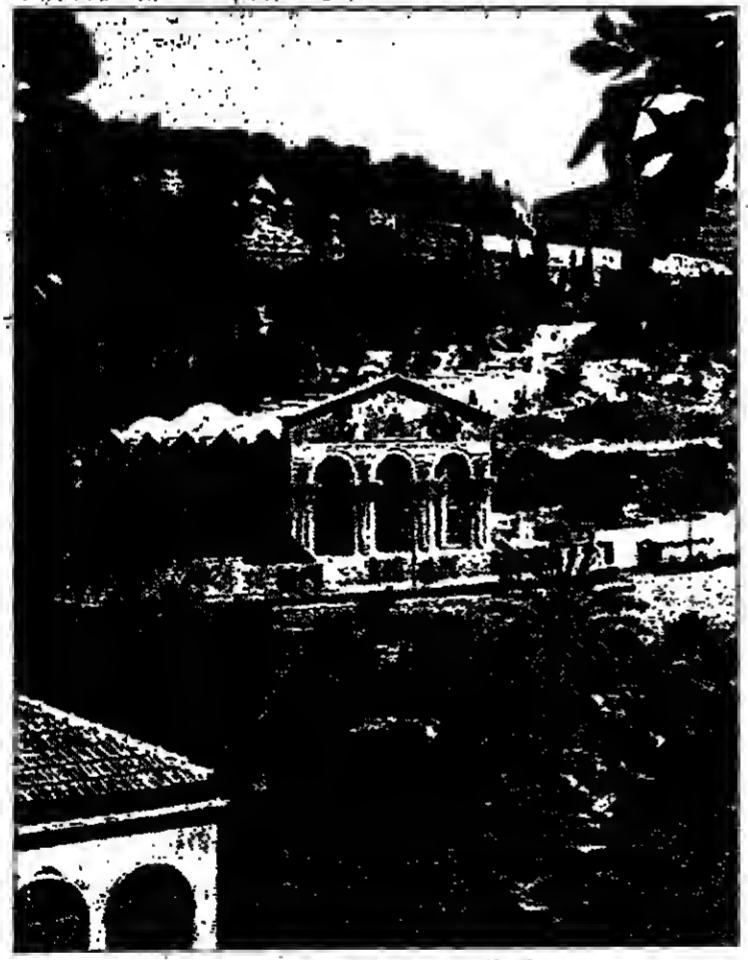
Braving east Jerusalem to see some fine Christian sites

SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

As recently as a century ago, a pilgrimage to the Holy Land was fraught not only with inconvenience but also with danger, since the pilgrim sometimes had to defend himself against brigands and ruffians.

In most respects this is a thing of the past, but for those who would like to recreate the experience, we can recommend a visit to Gethsemane, just east of the Old City of Jerusalem, at the foot of the Mount of Olives. The site is a must for Christian pilgrims and of considerable interest for non-Christians too.

But, be warned. A priest who brings visitors there regularly notes that during the course of one week alone a few people were pickpocketed, a guide was beaten up, and a woman was sexually assaulted. The priest, who wishes to remain nameless through fear that he too may become the victim of an attack, says that even when they don't attack visitors, the vendors often intimidate visitors and curse guides who don't do what they want.



Gethsemane is a must-see for Christian pilgrims.

This is a pity, since the site is well-worth visiting. In Hebrew, *Gat Shmranim* means "oil press." (This is traditionally a place where olive trees flourished.) The tourist guides claim that some of the olive trees there date from the time of Jesus, but even if this is not so, the huge twisted trees do convey a feeling of spirituality. According to some accounts, the trees were fertilized by the blood from the sacrifices in the Temple, which flowed down into the valley from the Temple Mount.

note of antique mystery not often found in churches in the Holy Land.

Adria's message: Slovenia is at peace

SLOVENIA'S national airline Adria, which has resumed flights to Israel after a four-year interruption, is trying to convey to the public one message — there is no war in Slovenia.

Slovenia — the northernmost of the former Yugoslav republics, bordering on Austria, Italy and Croatia — is said to have an Alpine terrain much like that of Austria. The current round-trip fare to Ljubljana is \$470, but Natour is offering week-long ski packages for about \$700.

THE EIN Gedi Spa is currently offering a visit to the spa, with lunch and a guided tour of its botanical garden and cactus farm, for NIS 70 per person. For the adventurous, a similar package, for NIS 65, includes a jump on the kibbutz omega cable instead of lunch. Discounts for children range from 20 to 50 percent, depending on age.

FOR PESSAH, the glatt kosher

Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel is offering a family rate of \$255 plus VAT per night for a couple and \$179 plus VAT for two children in a separate room. The price, for a minimum of seven nights, is for half board, including the seder meal.

THOSE SEEKING a different kind of Pessah break might try Geographical Tours-Neot Hakikar's 18-day outing to Papua-New Guinea and the Philippines. The price is \$5,995.

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

EL AL is now offering coupons on the German railways for passengers traveling there. The coupons, valid for round-trip travel from the airport to anywhere in Germany, are free to first- and business-class passengers and those on five-day excursion tickets and available for \$90 to other passengers.

CARTA HAS published a new road atlas of Israel (in Hebrew) which indicates the areas of Palestinian Autonomy. The 90-page atlas, on heavy paper with a spiral binding, also has maps of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. The atlas sells for NIS 40.

ALITALIA HAS a vacation package with the price of the round-trip flight to Italy and a six-night stay starting at \$649 in Florence, \$561 in Rome, and \$577 in Sorrento. Weekend excursions are also available.

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<p>Monday March 18</p>	<p>LIVING IN THE DESERT</p> <p>Survival in the desert depends on adaptation to the environment. From the Beduin to futuristic cities, this tour will expose us to the culture, the challenges, the human and wildlife elements. Shouldn't be missed.</p> <p>NIS 175 (including lunch).</p> <p>Tour guide: YONI SHAPIRO</p>
<p>Thursday March 28</p>	<p>REDISCOVERING CAESAREA</p> <p>You may have been before but using new archeological methods, Herod's town has been rediscovered. He'd be happy to see it today. The beautiful bathing house, the hippodrome, the baths, the imperial storage rooms Herod's temple, and more.</p> <p>NIS 155 (including lunch).</p> <p>Tour guide: Archeologist AVNER GOREN</p>
<p>Saturday April 13</p>	<p>THE CAPITAL'S WOMEN</p> <p>This Saturday morning walking tour features the women in our life. They've left their mark on the streets, the buildings and our history. From Helmi Hamalka, to Elizabeth Alexandrovitch, to Lea Abushdid to Anna Ticho. You'll meet them and more on an easy three hour walk. We meet in Jerusalem NIS 55</p> <p>Tour guide: Frances Oppenheimer</p>

The tour price for March 18 and 28 tours, includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Pickup and return, drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

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Dutch expected to pour in to watery attraction

KEIRON HENDERSON

Historians believe that disastrous floods and epic battles against water have helped forge the careful, diligent, hardworking side of the Dutch character.

"Holland Experience," a high-tech tourist attraction expected to draw 350,000 people a year when it opens later this year.

"We're building the attraction right in the center of Amsterdam and we expect that 60 percent of the visitors will be Dutch," said Stephan Schoor, for Holland Experience, which is backed by a number of Dutch companies.

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A question of safety

Nothing like a little religion around election time

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

GIVEN RECENT events in England's capital, the question put by Grapevine to John Chalstrey, the Lord Mayor of London, was just too irresistible. "It's safer than it is in this country," he chuckled, noting that he had brought one of his personal bodyguards with him. "Not that I need him here," his zoner hastened to add. The said bodyguard, Brian Kay, bearing a sword and dressed in a uniform, the style of which dates back to the time of King Charles II, excited the attention of photographers wherever he went.



London's Lord Mayor John Chalstrey (center) and Oded Lifschitz of the Hilton (left) test the sharpness of musketeer Brian Kay's sword.

One of 63 musketeers of the City of London warranted by the Queen, the benedict Kay, who was previously a colonel in the army, is a sergeant in the musketeers. "You don't get many colonels that finish up as sergeants," he said at a cocktail reception hosted at the Tel Aviv Hilton by Gad Fropper, chairman of the Israel-British Chamber of Commerce.

Chalstrey, who came to Israel at the head of a top-notch City of London Financial Services delegation, was accompanied by his wife Aileen, Sir Peter Levene, the Sheriff of the City of London, and Dr. George Remington who has special responsibility for health matters on the Israel-Britain Business Council.

Also here from London was Shlomo Maoz, former economics editor at *The Jerusalem Post* and now minister for economic affairs at the Israel Embassy.

SPEAKING IN serious vein about security in London, Chalstrey said that security had been upgraded by sophisticated surveillance methods which make it possible to identify everyone who comes into the City. The upgrading of security, he noted, had been introduced prior to the recent IRA bombings, because with 547 foreign banks in the City of London, "we're the financial

capital of Europe." The benefit of the increased security measures, Chalstrey added, is that there has been a fall-off in crime, because criminals don't want to risk being photographed.

WITH MORE resources at their disposal than regular mortals, royals are no less prone than the rest of us, to being caught up in the world of make believe. Take for instance, Prince Abdullah of Jordan, an avid *Star Trek* fan since childhood. During a recent visit to the US, the 34-year-old prince, who happens to be commander of the Jordanian Special Forces, fulfilled a lifetime ambition by getting to see an upcoming episode of the show while it was being taped.

But better than that, according to the February 17 issue of *TV Guide*, the prince was invited to make a guest appearance as a medical officer on the star fleet. Though it was a brief, non-speaking part, for Abdullah it was a dream come true. "I would have been thrilled just to visit the set, but this is too much," he said, adding that when

he was in the army, he was stuck in the desert for a year-and-a-half. "All we had was a TV monitor and VCR. I brought along my video collection of the original series and watched it every night." The collection will now be enhanced by a very special tape.

INDUSTRY AND Trade Minister Micha Harish, who laid to rest the charge that, unlike women, men are not judged by their appearances, doesn't seem to be faring too well in pre-election surveys despite his change of image. Guided by bohemian designer Yuval Caspin towards more colorful and youthful attire, Harish would be doing much better if he had to depend only on members of the local film industry whose financial resources have improved enormously since he came into office.

Harish this week secured approval for the creation of a \$50 million fund to encourage quality Israeli productions — \$25 million to be allocated by the government and matching funds by overseas co-production investors. An-

nouncing the fund's establishment at the annual Mickey Albin memorial awards for scriptwriters at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque, Harish came in for high praise from Albin's widow Gaila Albin, who heads the Friends of the Tel Aviv Cinematheque and who also sits on a committee appointed by Harish to determine the money-making potential of Israeli films, many of which are screened at international festivals. Albin, who has been behind an advertising campaign to replace Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu with Dan Meridor, had no such conflict in commending Harish who three nights later also came in for accolades from Judy Shalom-Nir-Mozes, wife of Likud MK Silvan Shalom.

PRIZE WINNING actress Gila Almagor, who "emceed" the Mickey Albin awards, read a synopsis of Yitzhak Goren's winning script in the TV drama category and observed that there was a female lead role looking for a player. Goren, who makes no secret of his belief in nepotism, quickly disabused Almagor of any move in that direction. The part, he declared, has already been reserved for his wife Shoshia.

BUT ALMAGOR may have bigger fish to fry. The Tel Aviv Cinematheque enjoys the support of some of the leading movers and shakers in the US film industry. One of the most influential of them all, Disney president Michael Eisner, is scheduled to visit in September, according to Albin.

THE YOUNGEST contestant in the Knesset race is Yariv Adin. The 22-year-old, long-haired judo exponent who is running in the Labor primaries, is the youngest ever would-be MK. If he gets in and stays in, he may well break the 41-year parliamentary service record of Teflik Toubi. Adin is young enough to notch up a half century career in politics.

DONATIONS

(Continued from Page 7)
Development Fund. The Yesha Council is openly trying to crush ICDP, because it sees the group as a threat to its own fund-raising efforts. The authorities, meanwhile, are beginning to catch up with the Yesha Council. The Interior Ministry this week issued a stern warning to the council that it is forbidden to use donations from Jewish communities in the territories for the upcoming election campaign.

The warning came after Yesha Council announced it would be actively backing the Likud's election campaign. The council denies, however, that that campaign includes smear tactics against Prime Minister Shimon Peres, as reported by Channel 2 this week.

Council spokesman Aharon Domb said the ministry had nothing to worry about, because the council does not use money it receives from the local and regional councils for political purposes. If Domb was indeed telling the truth, which Yesha Council sources say he is not, this would mean the organization has no money to push its political agenda, as both the bulk of local and foreign contributions go only to "humanitarian development" of the settlements.

INTERNAL FINANCIAL records

of the Yesha Council obtained by the *Post* show an organization in which nearly half of its income goes to salaries and administrative expenses. Here, the figures exclude funds raised abroad, and reflect funding it receives from the settlements — over NIS 1 million in 1994 — and supporters here, including national camp parties: the Likud, NIS 64,000; Isomet NIS 32,500; the National Religious Party, NIS 21,000; and Y'ud, NIS 4,500.

The council, with fewer than 10 staffers, had NIS 2,746,530 in expenses in 1992. Of that amount, NIS 1,228,290 went to salaries; that means that if the council employed 10 staffers at the time, an average monthly salary would have been over NIS 10,000. Another NIS 411,896, went to automobile upkeep and travel expenses, and another NIS 80,337 to "administrative costs." An outlay of NIS 27,205 is listed for "food."

As for activities, there were two major outlays that year: NIS 295,946 for public relations and NIS 256,033 for advertising. That adds up to NIS 551,979 being spent on actual activities and more than NIS 1.7m. on overhead. This ratio has not changed. The only difference is the overall Yesha Council budget, plus funds raised by Diaspora Jews, has grown as serious questions remain as to what is being done with that money. B.H.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL VS. WEISSMAN

I am very distressed by the verdict against Mrs Weissman. How can she, an elderly woman, have been convicted, when there is no sure proof? In my opinion, the prosecution has put itself in a corner and will not concede that it is wrong. Certainly, there is reasonable doubt. Many serious criminals are not convicted or have their sentences shortened, and go on to commit further crimes. Mrs Weissman poses no danger to anyone.

Alice Weiss

THE WEEK THAT WAS



David Zilberschlag: After being kicked out of Labor, he made a quick switch to Likud.



Eliezer 'Moddy' Zandberg 'forgot' that his party does not recognize the PLO. (Isaac Harari)



Rabbi Yosef has been seen 'advertising' Coca Cola during his Torah lessons. (Elihu Harari)

OH, what a tangled web they weave when there's a hardy voter to deceive. Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu this week "decided" on May 28 as election day, though both knew the real date will be June 4, just as both knew the religious parties were worried about the conflict of Shavuot observances with any May date.

By then bowing to hardi religious concerns, Peres could appear magnanimous, and Bibi can pose as the one who persuaded him to do so. Neat!

Hardi and religious parties have never been as popular as they are now — election time. Unless it was last election time. Their voters are a recognized force and courting them has become a near full-time preoccupation of both large parties. In the effort, even some old political dogs learn new tricks.

The voting pattern of the hardi sector is an enigma to the heads of the two large parties. Both have their best experts trying to figure out what makes this elusive public tick; what special codes, language, and/or approach might slip a political message across the divide.

Labor's experts were advising the party to note hardi disapproval of adultery. Notices pinned up in hardi strongholds like Jerusalem and Bnei Brak might target Bibi and Tsomet leader Rafael "Rafal" Eitan with sly hints. Then there is Likud's recently recruited star, Itzik Mordechai, also possibly "living in sin."

Love all, but it's still advantage Likud in the Haredi Open.

Likud knows most haredim will never vote for Labor. They will remind them why with counter-notices against "demon" Peres, "notorious" gay-rights activist Yael Dayan, and, by association, that perennial gift from the secular gods, Shulamit Aloni.

OF KIPPOT AND QUOTES

Labor chose hardi public-relations expert David Zilberschlag of Bnei Brak to spearhead the drive into the hardi camp and to keep Peres advised on the finer nuances of hardi etiquette. Zilberschlag orchestrated May-of-Ehud Olmert's triumphant assault on Jerusalem's hardi fortress and he boasts open access to the greatest Torah sages.

Zilberschlag advised Peres to resist those corny temptations to don a kippa or quote biblical proverbs when hardi leaders are in the vicinity. When haredim speak to secular power, he suggested, only actions speak back — like housing benefits and religious legislation.

Sound advice but, alas, rumors of Zilberschlag's close relations with Kach strongman Baruch Marzel quickly stirred agitation in the Labor fold. MK Yael Dayan demanded that Labor secretary-general Nissim Zivli investigate how the services of such a person were contracted.

Inquiries about Zilberschlag at the Prime Minister's Office this week met with blank denials. Sorry, who?

Peres has no campaign adviser in the hardi sector. No such number. No such name.

OFF THE HOOKERS

Tsomet's alliance with Likud has wrought a religiously miraculous change in Rafal. Once known for his anti-clerical principles, the stocky Rafal this week nipped smartly up on the tightrope that divides his past utterances from his political future, to the entertainment of many haredim.

Rafal didn't bother to show up for the Knesset vote on the bill he himself initiated to legalize prostitution. The bill, needless to say, an anathema to all religious parties, was swiftly dispatched to pre-election oblivion by a majority of both government and opposition MKs.

But Shas wasn't about to let the acrobatic Rafal off the bookers so easily. Aryeh Deri noted sarcastically that "while one should not scoff at those who repent (*hazzan bishava*) or remind them of their sins, a person cannot make a mockery of the hardi public and talk of preserving the status quo [a line Rafal agreed to in joining Likud] while at the same time proposing such a bill."

Has Rafal indeed seen the light so quickly? Or did he just forget to come to the vote?

It's probably a memory thing, for he also had some trouble remembering Tsomet's ideology on Channel 2's *Yoman Shishi*, where he vehemently denied clauses in his party's platform relating to Yeshiva draft evasion and religious coercion.

"It's not in the platform!" "It's not in the platform!" thundered Rafal in answer to every question, even when the interviewers showed the relevant official texts under his dilated nostrils.

FOLLOW THE LEADER

Leadership does indeed set an example for the young. Tsomet MK Eliezer "Moddy" Zandberg displayed some Rafilian forgetfulness when he took off on an MK's mission to Tunis to meet top Palestinian National Council and Palestinian Authority officials.

Had Zandberg forgotten that Tsomet and Likud are against meeting PLO leaders and opposed to the Oslo agreements?

As Tsomet MKs howled for Zandberg to be booted from his post as the party's Knesset faction chairman, young Zandberg was unfazed.

"I don't understand what all the fuss is about," he said. "I don't see these meetings indicating my recognition of the PLO or the Oslo agreements."

Try telling that to Rais Arafat when you don't meet him. In an even more impressive impression of Rafal, Zandberg also back-flipped out of supporting a Knesset bill he himself had presented to cancel the archaic law banning television broadcasts by politicians for 30 days before polling.

This has nothing to do with his recognition of Likud's opposition to this legislation, of course. Or that it might give coalition leaders an edge in the election campaign.

THINGS GO BETTER WITH...

Like Coke, things might go better with secular campaign strategists if they took note of some odd "behavior patterns" demonstrated by Shas's spiritual mentor, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

Yosef has lately taken to recommending certain products during his Torah lessons. Shas leaders vehemently reject the word "advertising."

Television's *Mabat* news program this week showed Yosef urging his students to "drink Coca-Cola, it's the taste of life" during a lesson.

On the program, a hardi mar-

REFORM

(Continued from Page 7)

favoring the areas they came from," he said.

"I complained to Uri Ariel about the matter several times," said Levy. "I never received an answer. But for me, no answer was just a diplomatic way of telling me things weren't going to change." Levy quit the council in 1993.

Former Ma'aleh Adumim mayor Amos Tartman was a founder of the council, and remains on good personal terms with the council leaders. But like Levy, as the council became more established, he found himself among the "outsiders."

It was in Tartman's hometown that the Yesha Council's general assembly decided in December 1993 to hold elections and democratically choose

a new leadership. Nothing ever came of the decision.

Since the explosive 1993 general meeting, at which grass-roots council members demanded changes from the executive, the calls for a democratic upheaval on the council have died down. Today, even settlement movement critics agree the time is not right for council elections, just months before the national elections.

Tartman recalled that in 1990 there was also an attempt by several Likud settlement leaders to bring about reform in the council. But then, like today, the demand for change was put off because of concern that making waves would backfire.

"Our biggest fear was that it would come out that there was a break in the ranks," Tartman said. Yesha continues to put off reform for the same reason, he said. B.H.

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15

Balancing 'Davar'

ON THE AGENDA

AMOTZ ASA-EL

POLITICIANS have long flirted with the journalistic occupation. Already in the time of the American Revolution, figures like Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton were deeply involved in the publication and editorial work of such publications as the *Gazette of the United States*, the *Philadelphia Aurora* and the *New York Evening Post*.

As expected, these and a plethora of other publications became deeply embroiled in burning political issues; unabashedly taking sides and promoting partisan agendas. Morally and professionally there is nothing wrong with this sort of combination, provided the publication makes no secret of its true colors, and so long as its reporting and editorializing are clearly separated.

In this sense, the *Davar* daily - which was founded by Labor leader Berl Katzenelson and later edited by future president Zalman Shazar - was part and parcel of a reputable tradition. Unlike its image, the paper, which has been on its deathbed all week, was no *Pravda*; surely, its two generations of writers and editors identified with a well-known party line, but they still met high reporting standards, gave voice to their opponents' views and remained well above the fray of the nasty muckraking battles in which the large Hebrew dailies have recently engaged.

However, as a product, *Davar* loomed as yet another tragic

monument to socialist disrespect for market realities and fiscal responsibility.

First, its political affiliation automatically distanced *Davar* from large segments of the market. Secondly, with no functioning board of directors and a glaring lack of audited reports, it accumulated an estimated \$3.4 million in annual losses. Finally, much like *Pravda* in its time, most of *Davar's* circulation was artificial, with thousands of copies distributed free in kibbutzim, Bank Hapoalim branches, state companies, government offices, municipalities, Kuppas Holim centers and Histadrut-owned factories.

Thus, a short-sighted party apparatus did to *Davar* the worst marketing disservice possible: they made its newsstand buyer look like an idiot and they made the product itself feel worthless, when it actually had journalistic value. And so daily circulation naturally plummeted over the past two decades from 45,000 to fewer than 10,000. Understandably, with this kind of distorted market share and low self-esteem, advertisers shunned *Davar*.

Now, a new Histadrut leadership did the right thing by deciding to shut it down. Ironically, *Davar* died the same week that *Yedioth Aharonot* editor Moshe Vardi resigned due to his indictment for alleged wiretapping. Which should remind us all that solid balance sheets - like *Yedioth's* - aren't everything; however, as the case of *Davar* attests, they are essential.

Sheer seriously considers becoming TASE chairman

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

INDUSTRIAL Development Bank Chairman Arye Sheer plans to take action to attract foreign investors and accelerate the privatization process if he accepts the role as new chairman of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, a source close to the banker said yesterday.

The source said Sheer is seriously considering the position offered to him several days ago by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Securities Authority Chairman Arye Minkevich.

Sheer's appointment is also supported by heads of the large banks, including Bank Hapoalim chairman of management Amram Sivan and Bank Leumi Chairman Eitan Reif.

According to the source, Sheer plans to be an active chairman. The source said Sheer considers the stock exchange the most important tool to the economy. Based on Sheer's past experience, the source forecasted the potential

chairman will place a strong emphasis on expanding the variety of services to foreign investors.

Sheer, who is a lawyer and economist, was appointed chairman of Industrial Development Bank six years ago. Before that he served as Ministry of Industry and Trade accountant-general between 1982-1989. In this position, Sheer was responsible for the government's raising of capital abroad and also government offerings.

UKM secretaries now want kibbutz debts to banks probed

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE United Kibbutz Movement's (UKM) newly-elected secretaries are in favor of checking the kibbutzim's debts to the banks, in contrast to the Movement's strong objections during the last few months.

The UKM yesterday appointed Zvili Ben-Moshe and Dudi Helman as secretaries of the movement, in place of Eric Reichman who recently resigned.

The new secretaries said it may be necessary to examine kibbutz debts to the banks and also help the Kibbutz Headquarters Association, a private association set up specifically to examine the kibbutz debts.

Up until now, the UKM strongly objected to the Kibbutz Headquarters, which commissioned the Proccacia report which suggests the kibbutzim's debts to the banks were inflated. The UKM previously expressed fears that checking kibbutz debts may lead to the cancellation of the kibbutz debt arrangement which is very close to being signed.

On Sunday, the kibbutzim, Treasury and banks are expected to begin marathon talks in an attempt to sign the kibbutz debt arrangement by the end of the month. The agreement involves write-offs totaling about NIS 6 billion for 127 kibbutzim.

Russia offers new diamond deals to De Beers

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia has offered two agreements on diamond trade to South African diamond group De Beers, instead of one currently in use, which will be discussed at talks in Moscow after February 20, a senior industry official said yesterday.

"We offered them a new flexible scheme, involving two agreements instead of one," said a top official at Russia's Committee for Precious Metals and Stones.

He said the first framework agreement aimed to regulate the

principles of global diamond trade, where Russia wants a bigger role, while the actual new trade agreement would be signed with Almazay Rossi Sakha, Russia's biggest diamond producer.

"The framework deal regulates basic principles to provide stability on the world diamond market. It is not a trade accord. We suggested that the trade accord would be signed with Almazay," said the official, but gave no further details.

Russia is due to hold a new round of talks with De Beers on

future cooperation on the world diamond market in Moscow after February 20. In talks last month, the sides extended their cooperation agreement to March 1 - the second extension of a deal originally due to expire on December 31.

"Under the current deal, Russia sells 95 percent of its rough gems through the CSO. Russia is believed to want the right to sell more of its uncut gems - some say 25 percent - outside the CSO.

De Beers wants to keep Russia's official exports and production under control and to prevent "leakage" of diamonds from Russia to the world markets, estimated at several hundred million dollars a year.

The official said he hoped at least the framework agreement could be signed at the new round of talks.

Ruskomdragmet officials said earlier this week that any deal Russia signs with De Beers must not hurt its diamond-cutting industry.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Koor Capital Markets has signed an agreement to purchase total ownership and control of Haron and Levy from Securitas and its subsidiary Tason Investments for NIS 6.5 million.

Haron and Levy is a veteran brokerage firm, which is also a member of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The company manages security investment portfolios and mutual funds.

According to the agreement, Securitas will be entitled to additional payments in the future, in accordance with the volume of trading on the TASE and the number of portfolios that will remain with Haron and Levy.

Koor Capital Markets is owned and controlled by Koor, which has a 75.1 percent stake in the company, and Maritime Bank which owns the remaining 24.9 percent.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Israel Electric Corporation announced yesterday that it will make no agreement with Mid Atlantic as an outside power provider until after its exclusive license has expired in March 1996 and the sector reorganized.

IEC said it is continuing negotiations with US firm Mid Atlantic to be its first major outside contractor. While negotiations have not yet been concluded, IEC's board of directors said yesterday that several interim decisions had been made and that it viewed favorably the association with Mid Atlantic.

Any agreement with Mid Atlantic would be done in accordance with the reorganization of the electricity sector. Mid Atlantic has proposed to provide IEC with electric power by erecting an oil-bale powered station, producing 150 megawatts, at Mishor Rotem in the Negev. Investment in the station would be \$300 million.

IEC said that several questions have been raised during the course of negotiations. Talks will resume after Mid Atlantic answers those questions.

Rachel Neiman

Scitex boss: Company needs to regain profitability

RACHEL NEIMAN

SCITEX CEO Yoav Chelouche said the company's highest priority was to return its largest division, renamed the Graphic Arts Group, to profitability.

The company on Wednesday reported 1995 fourth-quarter net losses of \$15.9 million from net gains of \$20m. in the comparable period. Revenues were \$191.75m., down from \$194.18m.

Annual net losses were \$34.5m. from net profits of \$63.75m. Revenues for 1995 were \$728.9m., from \$704.13m.

One-time costs associated with Scitex's reorganization, announced in November, were \$22m. General and administrative costs rose to \$117.6m. from \$72.5m.

Scitex further announced yesterday that subsidiary Scitex Digital Printing had closed a \$35m. deal to supply print engines and other components to a major business-forms manufacturer in Japan. The order, a new application for Scitex technology, is the largest single order in the company's history.

'Germany has hard task on EMU goal'

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - Germany will have to make a big effort to reduce its budget deficit in time to qualify for European monetary union in 1999, in the face of a weak economy and high unemployment, the Bundesbank said yesterday.

The deficit rose to 3.6 percent of GDP in 1995, well above the 3% maximum set by the Maastricht Treaty, and would remain little changed at 3.5% in 1996 according to a government fore-

cast, the bank said in its February report.

Despite growing worries that the economy is slowing sharply, the Bundesbank held its official interest rates unchanged on Thursday, in line with economists' expectations.

The discount and Lombard rates remain at 3% and 5% respectively and the central bank's main money market rate, the so-called repo, was held steady at 3.30%.

Siemens interested in supplying Bezeq

A delegation from the German electronics giant Siemens is interested in being a tertiary supplier of switching systems to Bezeq. A delegation from the company met yesterday with senior Bezeq officials in Tel Aviv. Siemens would like to participate in tenders for optic networks and to integrate a new telephone exchange in Bezeq's infrastructure. It is offering Bezeq wireless access equipment suitable for areas with rapid development and a crowded population. Over the past two years, Bezeq bought DM 30 billion worth of radio, telephone, and other equipment.

Judy Siegel

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ON WEDNESDAY - MONEY DAY IN THE JERUSALEM POST

MONEY MAGAZINE

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Real Estate & Investments in Israel 1996

Just before Pessach, The Jerusalem Post will publish special supplements, devoted to real estate and investments in Israel.

The supplements will be published in the International Editions of March 4, 11 and 18 and in the daily paper on April 5.

For more information and to advertise in these supplements, please contact:
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ATTENTION: U.S. VOTERS

The U.S. Embassy, the U.S. Consulate, Jerusalem; The AACI; Democrats and Republicans Abroad (Israel); and The Jerusalem Post invite you to attend a series of **VOTING WORKSHOPS** conducted by Phyllis Taylor, Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, Washington D.C.

Learn how to fill out the revised Federal Post Card correctly. Applications for your absentee ballot. Registrations for the 1996 elections will be accepted - BRING A VALID U.S. PASSPORT.

The sessions will take place as follows:

Tel Aviv: March 27, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the U.S. Embassy, 71 Hayarkon St.
Netanya: March 27, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., at the AACI, 28 Shmuel Hanavi St.
Jerusalem: March 28, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., at the U.S. Consulate, 27 Nablus Rd.
Jerusalem: March 28, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., at the AACI, 6 Mane St.

FPCA cards for requesting an absentee ballot may be obtained at all U.S. consulates and all AACI regional offices, during regular office hours.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (14.2.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.375	4.250	4.250
British sterling (£100,000)	4.750	4.625	4.500
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.750	1.750	2.000
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.250	0.250	0.625
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (15.2.96)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates*
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.4758	3.3319	-	3.17	3.5120
German mark	3.0742	3.1238	3.02	3.17	3.1070
French franc	2.0886	2.1325	2.06	2.17	2.1180
Japanese yen (100)	4.7311	4.8108	4.65	4.82	4.7789
Swiss franc	0.8088	0.8187	0.59	0.83	0.8145
British sterling (100)	2.8087	2.8657	2.85	3.00	2.9889
Dutch guilder	1.8740	1.9245	1.84	1.94	1.8910
Spanish peseta	2.5798	2.6182	2.53	2.65	2.5972
Italian lira	0.4421	0.4483	0.43	0.45	0.4488
Portuguese escudo	0.4790	0.4877	0.47	0.50	0.4843
Belgian franc	0.5424	0.5512	0.53	0.55	0.5474
Canadian dollar	0.6702	0.6811	0.65	0.70	0.6788
Australian dollar	2.2226	2.2622	2.19	2.30	2.2825
New Zealand dollar	2.3196	2.3570	2.27	2.39	2.3476
S. African rand	0.8461	0.8587	0.78	0.86	0.8488
Indian rupee (10)	1.0203	1.0368	1.00	1.05	1.0288
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8929	3.0221	2.90	3.08	3.0114
Korean won (1000)	1.9247	1.9690	1.80	2.00	1.9538
Soviet ruble	-	-	4.22	4.52	4.3984
Egyptian pound	-	-	0.87	0.95	0.8787
Iran ryal	3.8474	3.9995	-	-	3.9905
Kenyan shilling	4.8821	4.9477	4.78	5.02	4.9218
Sri Lankan rupee (100)	2.4875	2.5277	2.44	2.57	2.5104

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Mar. 6 9:00-12:30

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Mar. 15 8:30-11:00

HAIFA
Mar. 18 9:00-3:30

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Key Representative Rates

US dollar ... NIS 3.1070 -0.19%
Sterling NIS 4.7789 -0.24%
Mark NIS 2.1180 +0.03%

NEW STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Table with columns: Index Name, Last, Change. Includes DJ Industrials, DJ 30, NYSE Comp, etc.

Other stock market indexes

Table with columns: Index Name, Last, Change. Includes FTSE 100, Nikkei, Hang Seng, etc.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table with columns: Stock Name, Last, Change. Includes Am Rep, Am Tel, Am Bank, etc.

LIBOR rates

Table with columns: Term, Rate, Change. Includes 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Table with columns: Country, Index Name, Last, Change. Includes UK, France, Germany, etc.

US commodities

Table with columns: Commodity Name, Last, Change. Includes Corn, Soybean, Wheat, etc.

London commodities

Table with columns: Commodity Name, Last, Change. Includes Oil, Gold, Silver, etc.

Spot market metals (US)

Table with columns: Metal Name, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

New York metal futures

Table with columns: Metal Name, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

London metal futures

Table with columns: Metal Name, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

Spot market metals (UK)

Table with columns: Metal Name, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

New York metal futures

Table with columns: Metal Name, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

London metal futures

Table with columns: Metal Name, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

Spot market metals (EU)

Table with columns: Metal Name, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

New York metal futures

Table with columns: Metal Name, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

London metal futures

Table with columns: Metal Name, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading Two-sided trading

Large table of Tel Aviv stock market data including company names, prices, and changes.

TASE rises on last day of a down week

STOCKS fell for the week amid concern inflation is rising, promoting worry the Bank of Israel will raise interest rates.

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

Two-Sided Index 203.30 +0.90%
Maof Index 212.02 +0.92%

STOCKS fell for the week amid concern inflation is rising, promoting worry the Bank of Israel will raise interest rates.

January's consumer price index rose 0.9% percent, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced after the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange had closed for the day.

"Everything will derive from this CPI," said Eli Nahum, the head of trading at the Tel Aviv investment firm Zanex Securities Ltd.

Nahum said that analysts were using a 1% increase as a "balancing line." If the CPI increase had been above 1%, he said, it might have brought "back the bears."

After an increase of below 1%, "the market may turn up in a significant way" next week.

Yesterday's gains came after Biocraft Laboratories announced it had received US Food and Drug Administration approval to manufacture a generic drug version of high blood pressure medication Captopril. Teva agreed to acquire Biocraft for \$288.9 million in stock last month.

The FDA approval said Nahum, "is a really positive sign for Teva. I don't think they will have to suffer before they make money from this company."

Teva's ADRs were up 1/4 in early trading.

Other gaining shares on the exchange included Koor Industries Ltd., which rose 2% as NIS 4.4m worth of shares changed hands. Koor's ADRs were up 1/4 in early trading.

Koor had fallen 1.3% in Tel Aviv from last Thursday through Wednesday.

Maof Index-listed banks rose yesterday after declining during the week amid news reports that kibbutzim may seek to reassess the debts they owe the banks.

Yesterday Bank Hapoalim BM rose 0.75% after falling 0.9% from last Thursday through Wednesday; Bank Leumi rose 0.25% after falling 2% during the same period.

Gains yesterday also came as concern that the Central Bank would raise rates was somewhat

alleviated by a lower-than-expected M1 money supply increase of 1.1% in January from February, Nahum added.

Teva's gains in Tel Aviv followed increase in Teva's American Depository Receipts, which rose in New York to 4 3/4% Wednesday from 4 1/4% Tuesday. Teva had fallen 4.4% in Tel Aviv from last Thursday through Wednesday.

Tea's ADRs were up 1/4 in early trading.

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INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various countries including USA, UK, Germany, France, etc.

FTSE 100 ends close to all-time high

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Corporate activity helped lift the FTSE 100 to close to its previous all-time high levels yesterday, aided by inflation data which kept hopes alive of another cut in UK interest rates in the short term.

The FTSE 100 closed 34.8 points up at 3,779.8.

FRANKFURT - Shares closed little changed showing little reaction to the Bundesbank keeping a firm hand on its key discount and Lombard rates. The DAX index of 30 blue-chip German shares closed bourse trade down 4.06 points at 2,423.01, or down 0.17 percent for the session.

Post-bourse trade was minimal and the IBIS DAX index of electronically traded shares closed down 1.26 points at 2,426.51.

PARIS - Shares closed higher after having spent most of the day in a slightly negative territory. Trading was temporary disrupted due to a halt in futures and options business following occupation of the Palais Brongniart by staff of the Credit Foncier de France bank. The CAC-40 index closed up 7.83 at 1,964.21.

ZURICH - Shares closed a range-bound day with minor gains, swinging back into positive terrain towards the end of the session. Dealers said yesterday's rally in federal bond futures had little effect on the stock exchange. Trading was quiet in low volumes. The broad SPI added

2.60 points, or 0.12%, to 2,135.12 points.

TOKYO - Stocks ended modestly weaker, but off the day's lows, in lackluster trade. A comment by Finance Minister Wataru Kubo which traders said implied a possible interest rate rise hit sentiment in the early afternoon, but the market's downside remained limited. The 225-share Nikkei average ended down 57.40 points at 20,886.19.

HONG KONG - Hong Kong stocks closed sharply higher in moderate trade, swept along by soaring index futures, players said. The blue-chip Hang Seng Index ended up 107.35 points at 11,471.81.

SYDNEY - Australian shares ended marginally lower as gains from earlier in the week were consolidated with a lack of leads to give a new direction. The all ordinaries index was 2.3 points lower at 2,298.5.

JOHANNESBURG - South African shares ended broadly firmer, with industrials boosted by a strong bond market and golds running up on a higher bullion price, dealers said. They said short covering and a return to the spot market after recent futures activity were driving gains. The correction seemed to be over and shares were seen continuing their uptrend. The all-share index closed up 76.6 points to 6,854.1, industrials gained 81.3 to 8,575.4 and the gold index added 52.2 to 1,800.

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks fell for the second straight session yesterday as investors cashed in more profits after the market's recent string of record highs.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial

average fell 28.18 points to 5,531.37, after Wednesday's drop of about 22 points.

In the broader market, declining issues led advances 12-10 on moderately active volume of about 413 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

NYSE stocks continue to fall

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks fell for the second straight session yesterday as investors cashed in more profits after the market's recent string of record highs.

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DEADLINES OFFICE: Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 5 p.m. on Thursday.
Tel Aviv and Haifa - weekdays: 12 noon, 2 days before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.

DWELLINGS

General

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UK think-tank poll: Jewish identity weakens

One in three Jews no longer belongs to synagogue

LONDON (Reuters) - The first independent Jewish think-tank in Europe launched itself yesterday with a poll showing that almost half of Britain's male Jews are marrying outside their community.

The Institute for Jewish Policy Research said the survey was worrying for the future of the Jewish community, and it planned to take an active role in promoting changes in policies of leaders of the Jewish faith.

Britain has one of the largest Jewish communities in Europe - about 300,000, or half a percent of the population - but the total has fallen by about a quarter since 1945.

The national survey of social and political attitudes of British Jews found that one in three no longer belonged to a synagogue, and more than two-thirds felt equally British and Jewish - or more British than Jewish.

"Years of speculation on these issues have been brought to an end by these findings, and they

are not good news for the maintenance of Jewish identity," said the institute's executive director, Antony Lerman. "Those who wish to preserve Jewishness and continuity must now realize that the time for softly, softly approaches to demands for pluralism and inclusivism has passed."

A spokesman for Britain's chief rabbi, Dr. Jonathan Sacks, said the survey "represents an enormous challenge to the community."

The poll, questioning over 2,100 people throughout Britain, found that 44 percent of Jewish men under the age of 40 were married to or living with non-Jewish partners.

This compared with 20 percent for the 60 to 70 age group and 20 to 25 percent for Jewish women.

The report said intermarriage was seen as one of the main reasons for Jewish demographic decline.

The report's co-author, Stephen Miller, dean of Social Sciences at London's City University,

said the figures were worrying for maintaining "the integrity of the community."

He told a news conference that they were not far from "the shock USA statistic of around 52 percent which caused British and American Jews to think about the nature of their future."

"Jews are becoming more ethnic and less religious in observance," Miller said. But a large number of those who married outside the faith were keen to keep a Jewish identity.

"While one-third do not belong to a synagogue, many maintain their identity in other ways - they hold ceremonies without ritual; they practice but don't believe," the institute said.

Around 60 percent of respondents favored the Israeli government's approach to peace in the Middle East, compared with 68 percent of American Jews, and 69 percent felt that Israel should give up some land in exchange for peace.

Helmets increase bikers' safety

JUDY SIEGEL

A GOVERNMENT educational campaign aimed at encouraging bicycle riders to wear safety helmets increased the percentage of helmet wearers from 7.9% to only 14.8%. Officials in the Health Ministry's health education department now think a law is needed to induce more cyclists to don the protective gear.

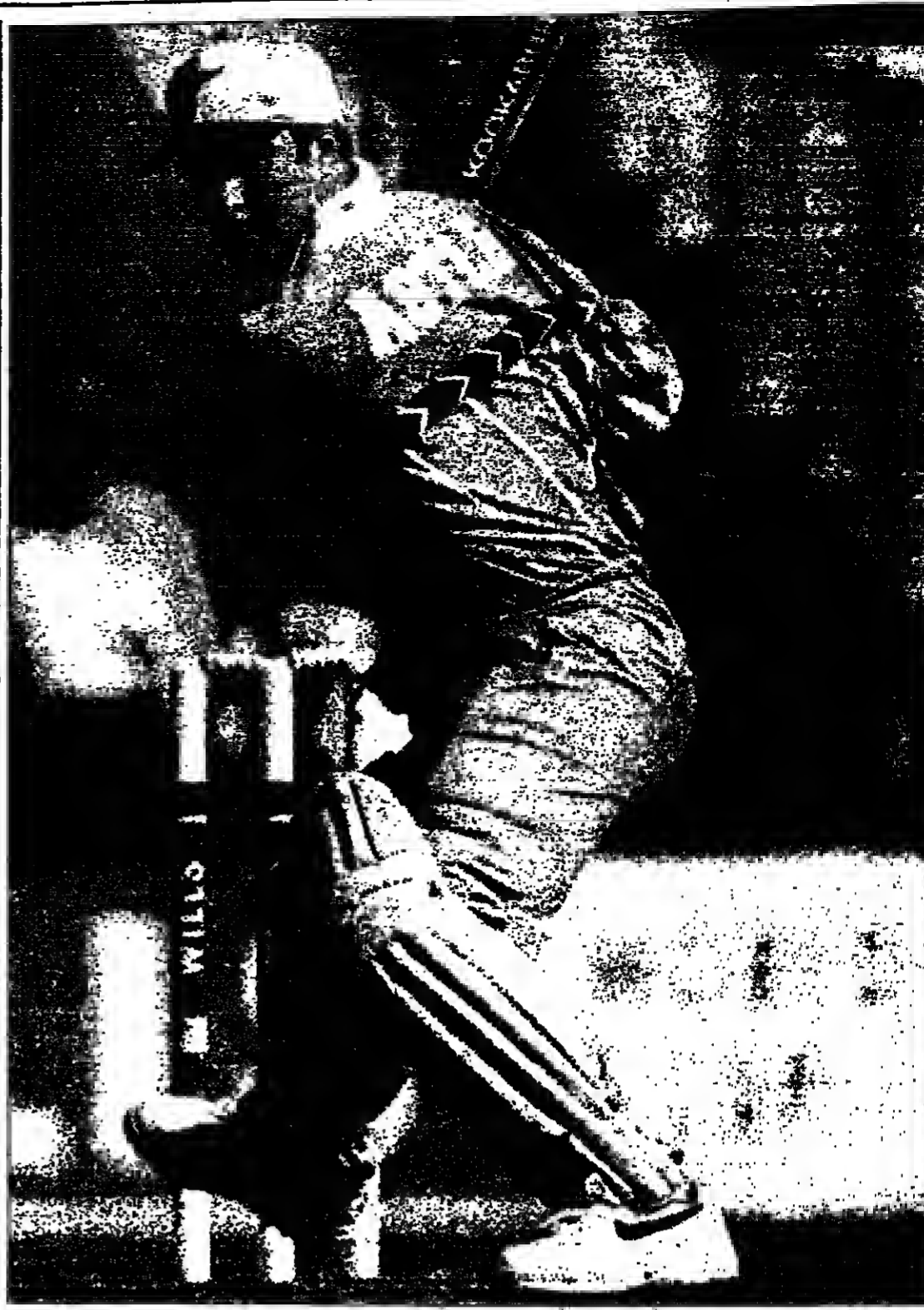
Department head Dr. Dov Tamir, who co-wrote an article about his survey of helmet use among cyclists in the February issue of the *Israel Journal of Medical Science*, said yesterday he will pursue the legislation option in the coming months.

"In other countries, mandatory helmet laws have followed educational campaigns by a couple of years, but it would be a shame to wait for more youngsters to be injured," he said. "The upcoming elections complicates the matter, as MKs may be busy campaigning, but we hope to be able to explain the importance of such legislation."

An average of 20 Israelis are killed in bicycle accidents each year. About 1,000 are reported injured, 200 seriously and 800 mildly injured. Wearing a suitable helmet has been proven to reduce the risk of head injuries, which are the main type of bicycle-related damage.

After sending out observers to count how many cyclists in 15 towns wore helmets two years ago, the ministry and the Road Safety Administration launched a campaign of radio jingles, stickers, and newspaper ads costing a few hundred thousand shekels (only a small part of it covered by the ministry).

The percentage of riders observed with helmets after the campaign doubled to an average of 14.9%.



HERE COMES TROUBLE - New Zealand batsman Nathan Astle is just one of the many obstacles Holland faces tomorrow. (Reuters)

Jordan, Kuwait move toward reconciliation

AMMAN (AP) - Kuwait and Jordan have moved closer toward resuming normal ties, which were severely strained over Amman's pro-Iraq tilt during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, a cabinet official said yesterday.

Information Minister Marwan Mousher said a letter sent by Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Abdullah Sabah to his Jordanian counterpart reflected a change in attitude toward Jordan, whose previous efforts to recon-

cile with the Gulf emirate had been snubbed.

Prince Hassan, the King Hussein's younger brother and heir apparent, received the letter Wednesday.

"The letter definitely indicated a real intention by the Kuwaitis to resume normal relations with Jordan," Mousher told The Associated Press.

The letter was termed "very positive."

He said the leadership in Ku-

wait "thinks that it is time to restore Arab solidarity."

Kuwait and other Arab countries ostracized Jordan when King Hussein opposed the use of military force to evict his then closest ally, Saddam Hussein, from the Gulf emirate he invaded in August 1990.

On Sunday, King Hussein made his first official visit to Saudi Arabia in five years.

On his return, the king said that relations were back on track.

World Cup Dutch debut likely to end in knockout

BARODA, India (Reuters) - The Dutch cricketers' World Cup debut tomorrow will be like "fighting a champion in the ring" and opponents New Zealand are likely to land the knockout punch.

Captain Steven Lubbers' team from the Netherlands faces a New Zealand side who opened the tournament on a high note when it beat England by 11 runs in its Group B match in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

Lubbers, who has scored more runs in domestic cricket than any other Dutch player, said: "For Holland, it's like fighting a champion in the ring. You pick up the challenge. You are honored."

"We are prepared to give our best. I admit that New Zealand are very young and dangerous," he said ahead of the game in the city of Baroda which is noted for its royal history.

Lubbers said his team's main objective would be to limit New Zealand's scoring "otherwise you will end up chasing a massive total".

The New Zealanders, semifinalists at the last World Cup which they co-hosted with Australia four years ago, were spurred to success in Ahmedabad by a vibrant innings of 101 from opener Nathan Astle.

Glenn Turner, New Zealand's manager, coach and strategist, said: "We were expecting a big score from Nathan Astle and he did not let us down."

Turner said it was a great team effort that restricted England, which finished on 228 for nine in reply to New Zealand's 239 for six.

"The team's fielding lived up to our expectations," Turner added.

New Zealand may rest all-rounder Chris Cairns, who has just recovered from a calf injury, against the Netherlands and include off-spinner and useful batsman Dipak Patel.

Kenya-born Patel is a veteran of three World Cups, whose origins can be traced to the neighboring city of Surat in India's western state of Gujarat.



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שלום וברכה

Amir trial judge responds to Aloni

TEL Aviv District Court Judge Edmond Levy, presiding over the trial of Yigal Amir, yesterday responded in court to the criticism of his conduct of the trial by Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni.

"I considered long and hard if it was proper for me to respond," Levy said, "and I came to the conclusion that I would not be true to myself if I did not publicly express my feelings. Honest criticism of the justice system is desirable as a necessary condition for ensuring public faith in the system, a trust without which it has no right to exist."

"But criticism is one thing, and slamming a judge is another. The things that have been said recently are damaging. Even though they may not have been meant that way, they leave the impression that some people are trying to make the judge afraid in order to influence the way the trial is con-

EVELYN GORDON and ITIM

ducted.

"To those people, I want to say that in my eyes the work of a judge is a mission. I cannot accept any attempt to threaten a court, whether it comes from the high and the mighty, or from the man in the street."

"To bring this whole matter to a close, I want to make it clear that I will not change my habits and I will continue to run my courtroom according to the wisdom God has given me and according to the dictates of my conscience. I will not be intimidated."

"I also understand your position to be that if your words were interpreted as an attempt to interfere with the procedures of the trial, you are sorry about this," he concluded.

Meanwhile, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair decided not to open criminal proceedings against

Aloni because of her remarks, though he sharply criticized her behavior.

Amir's attorney, Shmuel Fleishman, and MK Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) had both asked that Aloni be investigated for possible violations of the *sub judice* laws and contempt of court. However, Ben-Yair noted that the state has generally refrained from indicting people for *sub judice* violations unless their remarks are liable to influence witnesses, which is not the case here.

Furthermore, Ben-Yair said, an explanatory letter which he received from Aloni indicated that she did not intend to either sabotage the court's stature or interfere with its proceedings, and that she was sorry if her words had been interpreted in such a way. Such intent is necessary to convict someone for such a crime, he noted.

Israeli team helps find drug for leukemia cases

JUDY SIEGEL

A NEW drug, developed by Israeli and Canadian researchers and tested on animals, offers hope to children suffering from a type of leukemia that relapses and doesn't respond to any other kind of treatment.

The drug, called AG-490, is meant for young sufferers of acute lymphoblastic leukemia who relapse. About 80 percent of patients with this most common form of childhood cancer can be treated with chemotherapy.

Dr. Alexander Leviski, of the Hebrew University, and Dr. Chaim Roifman, of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, head a team that developed a novel concept in leukemia treatment after looking at the chemical response of cells to JAK-2 protein tyrosine kinase, a signaling protein that becomes acti-

ated in immune system cells of patients having a relapse. The drug blocks the protein from working and causes the affected blood cells to die as they are supposed to.

The joint team tested AG-490 on cell cultures and in mice. The inhibition of JAK-2 was found to selectively block leukemic cell growth by inducing programmed cell death, according to a scientific report on the drug published yesterday in *Nature*.

The researchers, whose work is being funded by the National Cancer Institute and Medical Research Council of Canada and the Sogen company in Redwood, California, said more research is needed to make the drug ready for testing on humans. The patent has been registered by Yissum, the HU's R & D branch.



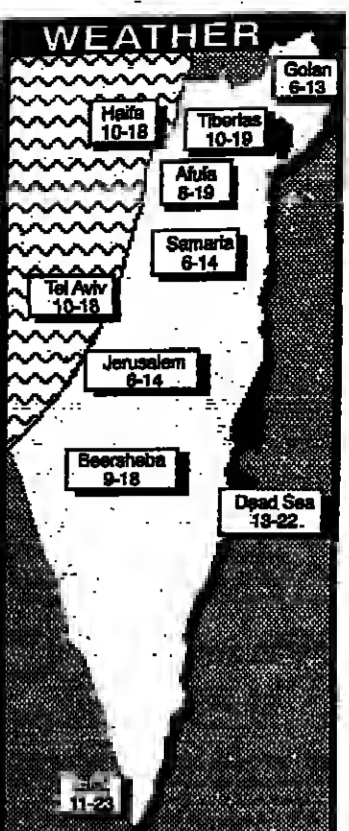
New OC Southern Command Maj-Gen. Shaul Mofaz

Yanai takes over as OC Southern Command

MAJ-GEN. Shlomo Yanai yesterday took over as OC Southern Command, replacing Maj-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, who took over as head of Planning Branch at General Staff Headquarters and will soon join the team negotiating with the Syrians.

Yanai, 44, received the Medal of Valor after being wounded twice in the Yom Kippur War. He served in a variety of Armored Corps commands before taking over the Planning and Armament Division in the Ground Corps Command three-and-a-half years ago. He is a graduate of Tel Aviv University and studied at the National Security College in Washington.

Mofaz, 48, participated in the Entebbe raid, and commanded the officers' school and later a paratroop brigade. He was appointed commander of IDF forces in Judea and Samaria in August 1993, and then served as OC Southern Command for the past 14 months.



Forecast: Partly cloudy. Possibility of rain, mainly in the north. Shabbat: Partly cloudy. No rain.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Weather
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Buenos Aires	10	18	clear
Calcutta	25	32	clear
Chengde	10	18	clear
Copenhagen	10	18	cloudy
Hankow	10	18	cloudy
Hong Kong	25	32	cloudy
London	10	18	rain
Lyons	10	18	cloudy
Manila	25	32	cloudy
Medan	25	32	cloudy
Montevideo	10	18	cloudy
New York	10	18	cloudy
Paris	10	18	cloudy
Rome	10	18	cloudy
Singapore	25	32	cloudy
Sydney	10	18	rain
Taipei	10	18	cloudy
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Yokohama	10	18	cloudy
Zurich	10	18	cloudy

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14 years for double rape

BEHAJEM Mandu, 22, of Beit Jann, who had been convicted of raping two women at knife-point last year, was sentenced to 14 years in prison by the Haifa District Court yesterday.

The court said it is incumbent upon the justice system to hand down deterrent sentences on those convicted of sex crimes in order to discourage violence against women.

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